

POPULAR "I Fear For My Life," Cries Ivan Koloff

WRESTLING

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AUG. 1976

IVAN KOLOFF

THE SHEIK

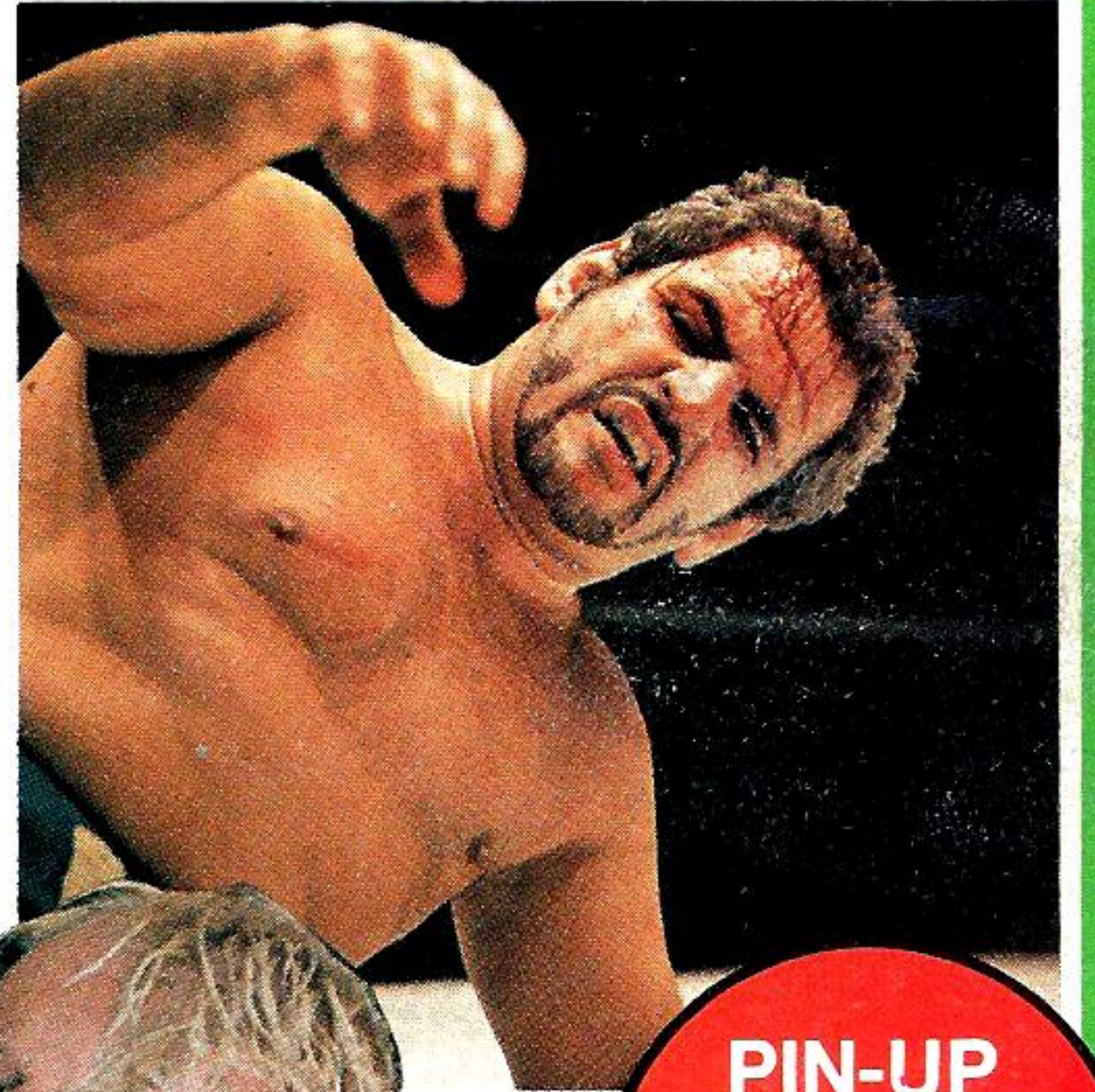
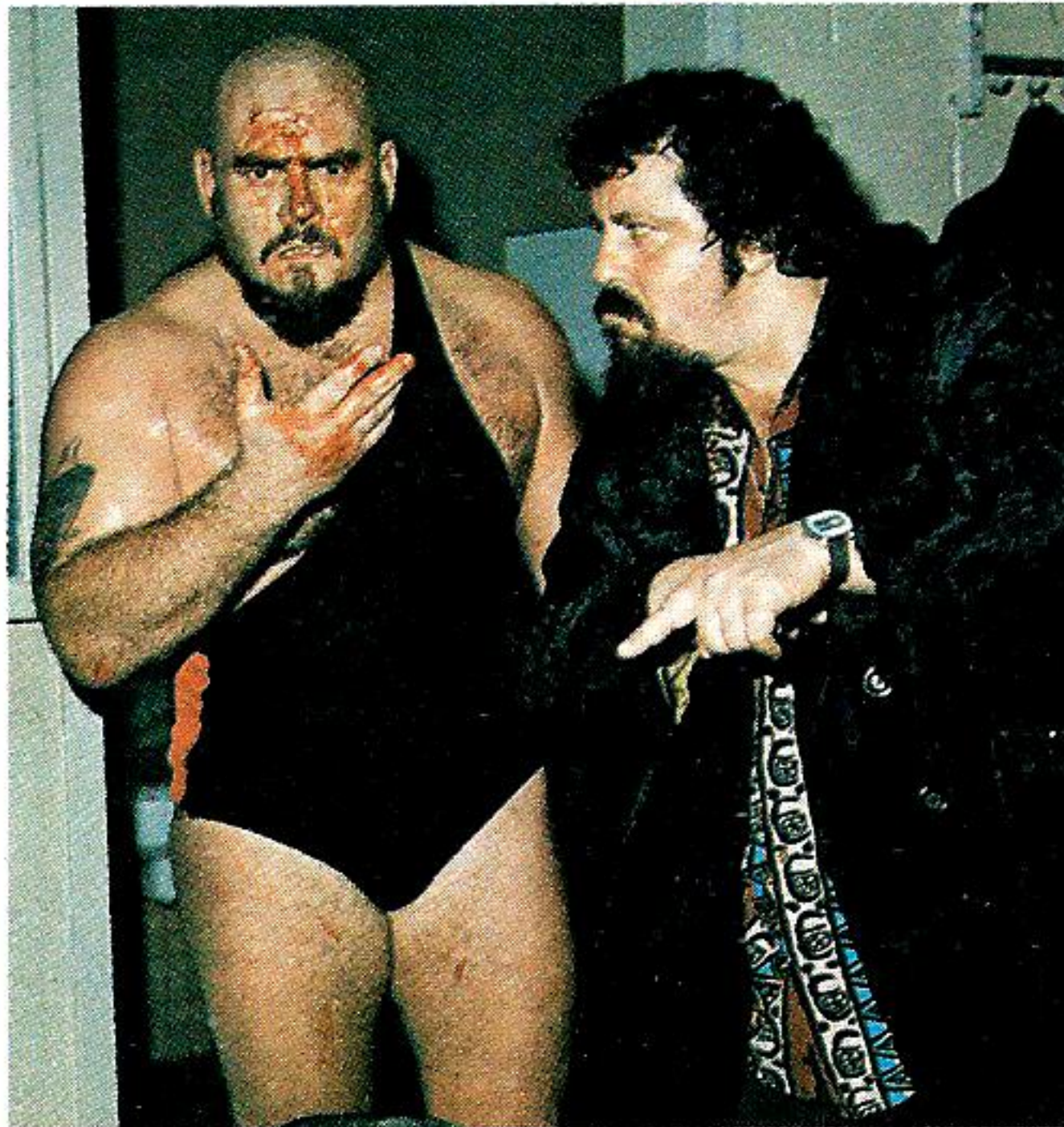
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**The Night Spiros
Arion Escaped
Death!**

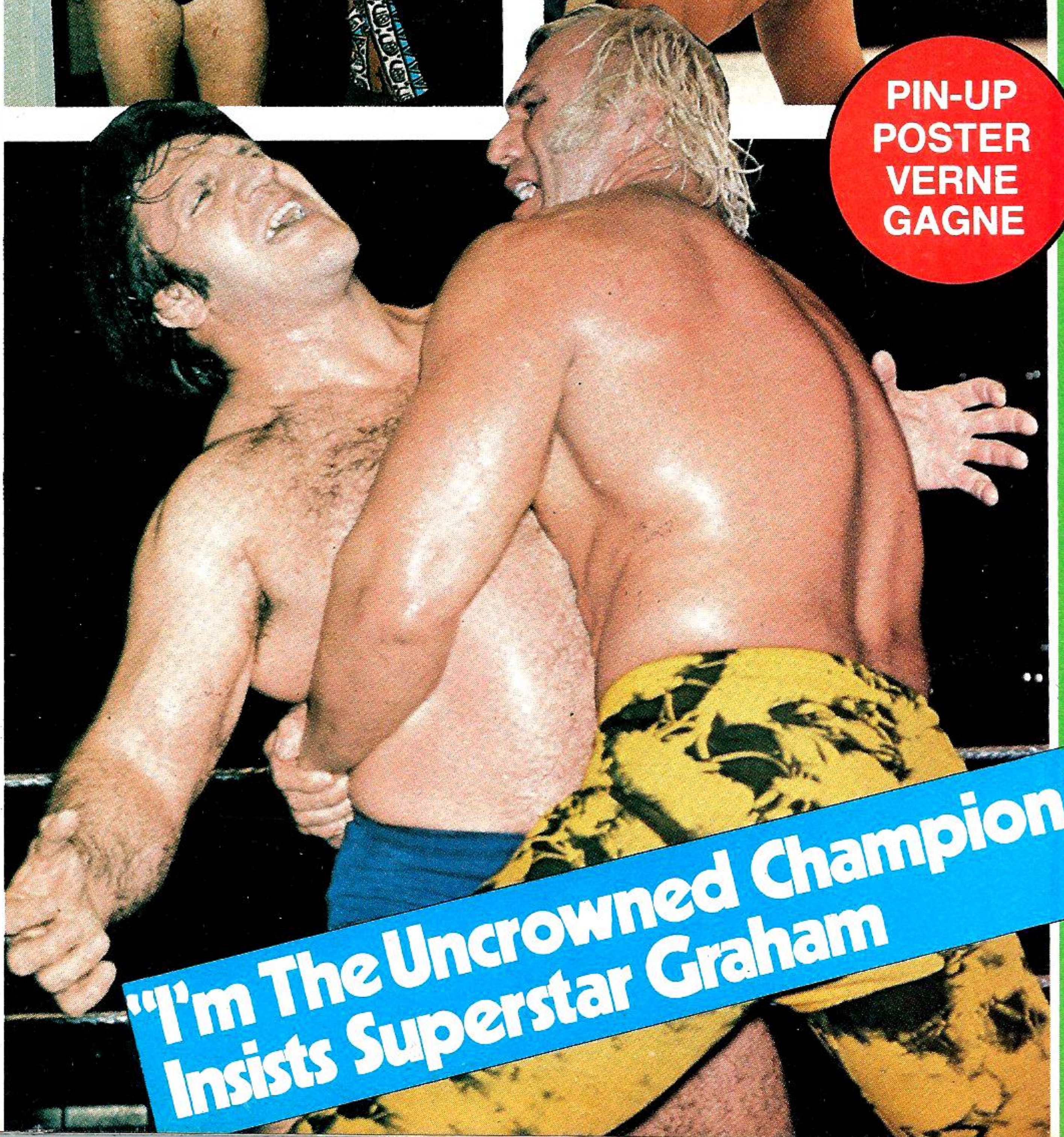
**Mark Lewin's
Warning To
Terry Funk**

**Should The
Sheik Be
Banned?**

**"Blood Spilling
Must Stop!"
Demands
Haystacks
Calhoun**



PIN-UP
POSTER
VERNE
GAGNE



**"I'm The Uncrowned Champion,"
Insists Superstar Graham**



POPULAR WRESTLING

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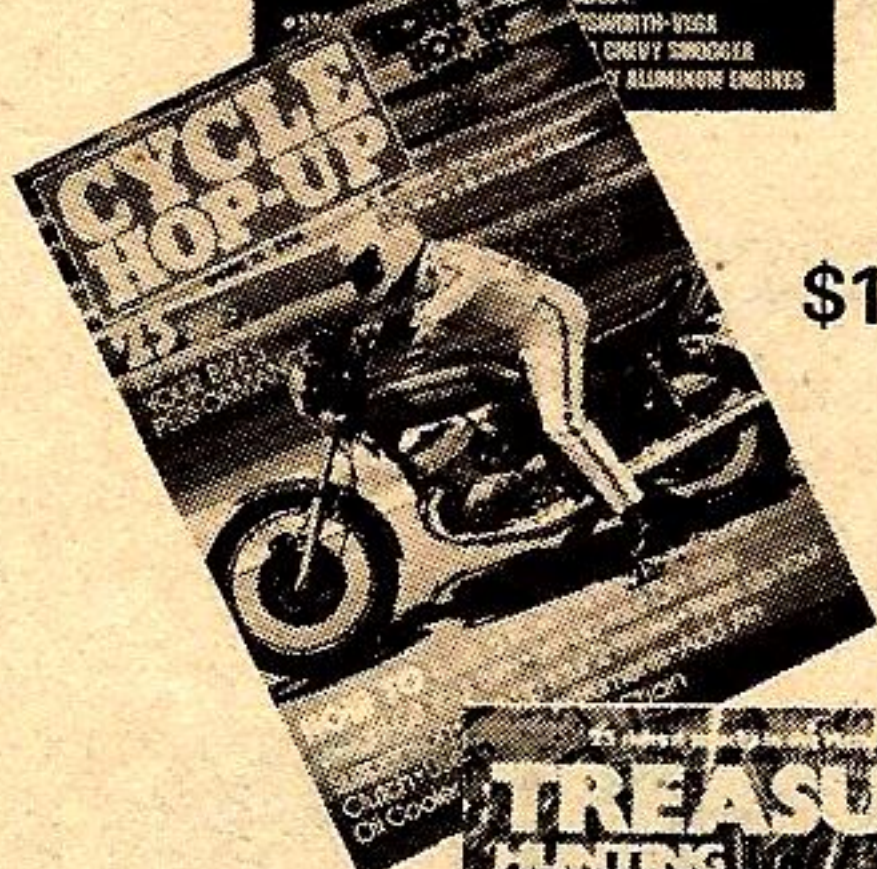
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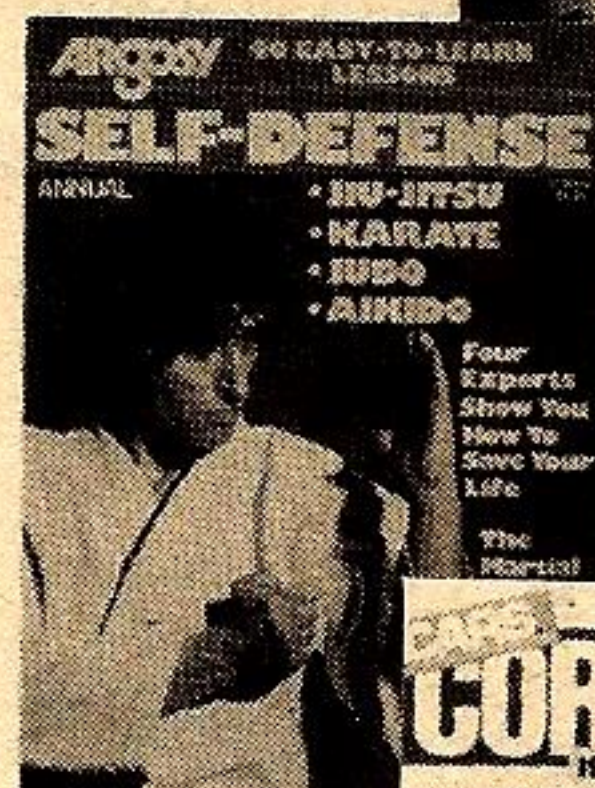
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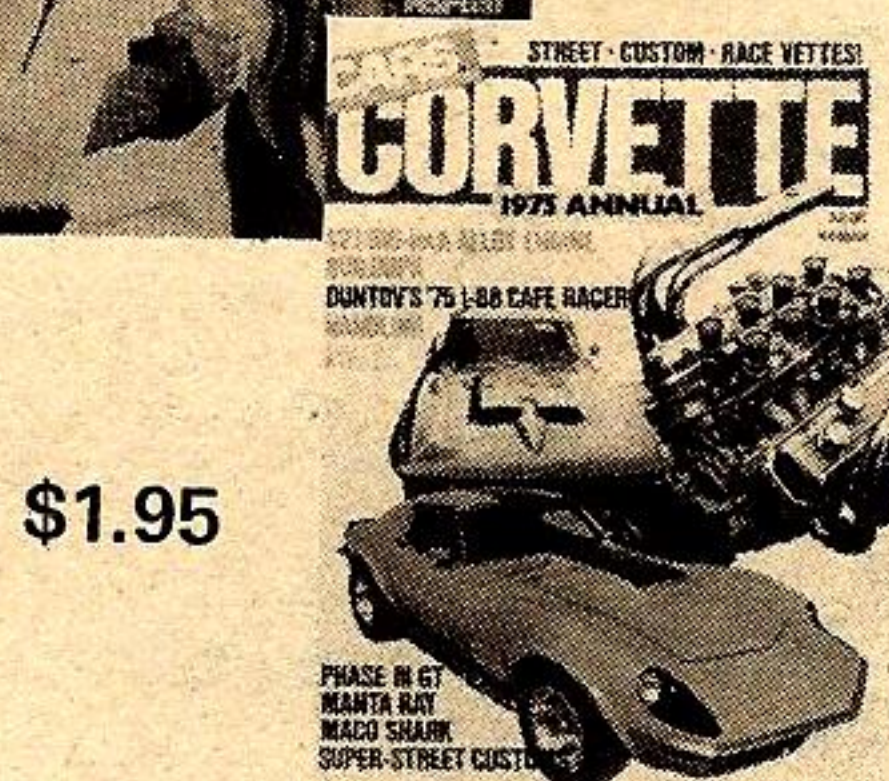
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POPULAR RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION
Champion: Bruno Sammartino

- 1—George Steele
- 2—Superstar Graham
- 3—Ernie Ladd
- 4—Toru Tanaka
- 5—Spiros Arion
- 6—Ivan Putski
- 7—Ivan Koloff
- 8—Killer Kowalski
- 9—Gorilla Monsoon
- 10—Chief Jay Strongbow

NATIONAL ALLIANCE WRESTLING
Champion: Dory Funk, Jr.

- 1—Jack Brisco
- 2—The Sheik
- 3—Fritz Von Erich
- 4—Bobo Brazil
- 5—Pampero Firpo
- 6—Mark Lewin
- 7—Greg Valentine
- 8—Pat Patterson
- 9—Fritz Von Erich
- 10—Terry Funk

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION
Champion: Verne Gagne

- 1—Baron Von Raschke
- 2—Bobby Duncum
- 3—Harley Race
- 4—Nick Bockwinkel
- 5—Dick The Bruiser
- 6—Billy Graham
- 7—Dusty Rhodes
- 8—Billy Robinson
- 9—Crusher Lisowski
- 10—Greg Gagne

WOMEN

Champion: Fabulous Moolah

- 1—Kay Noble
- 2—Ann Casey
- 3—Toni Rose
- 4—Susan Green
- 5—Joyce Grable
- 6—Vicki Williams
- 7—Donna Christinello
- 8—Peggy Patterson
- 9—Vivian Vachon
- 10—Evelyn Stevens

FANS FORUM

BY GEORGIANN MAKROPOULOS

Welcome to another column, it seems like only yesterday that I did the last one. Things have been happening so quickly I can't really keep up with all the changes. New clubs, disbanded clubs, changes of address, new pen pals, etc. *Please please please* don't forget to send a self addressed-stamped envelope when writing to people listed in my columns. Many will not answer your letters without that big 13¢ stamp. I, for one, can't—I average about 25 to 40 letters a day sometimes and it is impossible with the postal increase to answer all letters without that important stamp.

My husband, George, and I have been selling our wrestling pictures like crazy. We are thrilled that we can make so many wrestling fans a little happier with their new photos to add to their collection. I have gotten many letters after the pictures were received just saying thank you. That makes us feel good. We have broadened our lists and now have a new camera to take even more photos, so don't forget to write for your list. Anyone wanting to get in touch with me can write to Georgiann Makropoulos—23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, New York 11102.

First item on the agenda is to inform you that Paul Fishbein has disbanded his club, Universal Wrestling. Needless to say, it will be missed greatly—it was one of my favorites. But school work does come first.

Before I forget, I want to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful friends Michele and Dick Jacobs for giving me my gorgeous Yashica Electra 35 camera after learning that my camera was stolen at Boston Gardens last month. My Afga camera was stolen in Boston and was never returned. Words of thanks can never be enough for such thoughtful friends, but I have found in the wonderful world of wrestling that everyone is a friend—so warm and kind and thoughtful. I have been attending wrestling for about 15 years now and met some really wonderful friends.

Well let's get back to Fan Clubs . . . First I would like to list a new address for "Rasslin' Wonders" which is put out by Mike Omansky. New Address—Box 1196, Union, New Jersey 07083. Also good news; with the postage increase not too many clubs will be doing this but

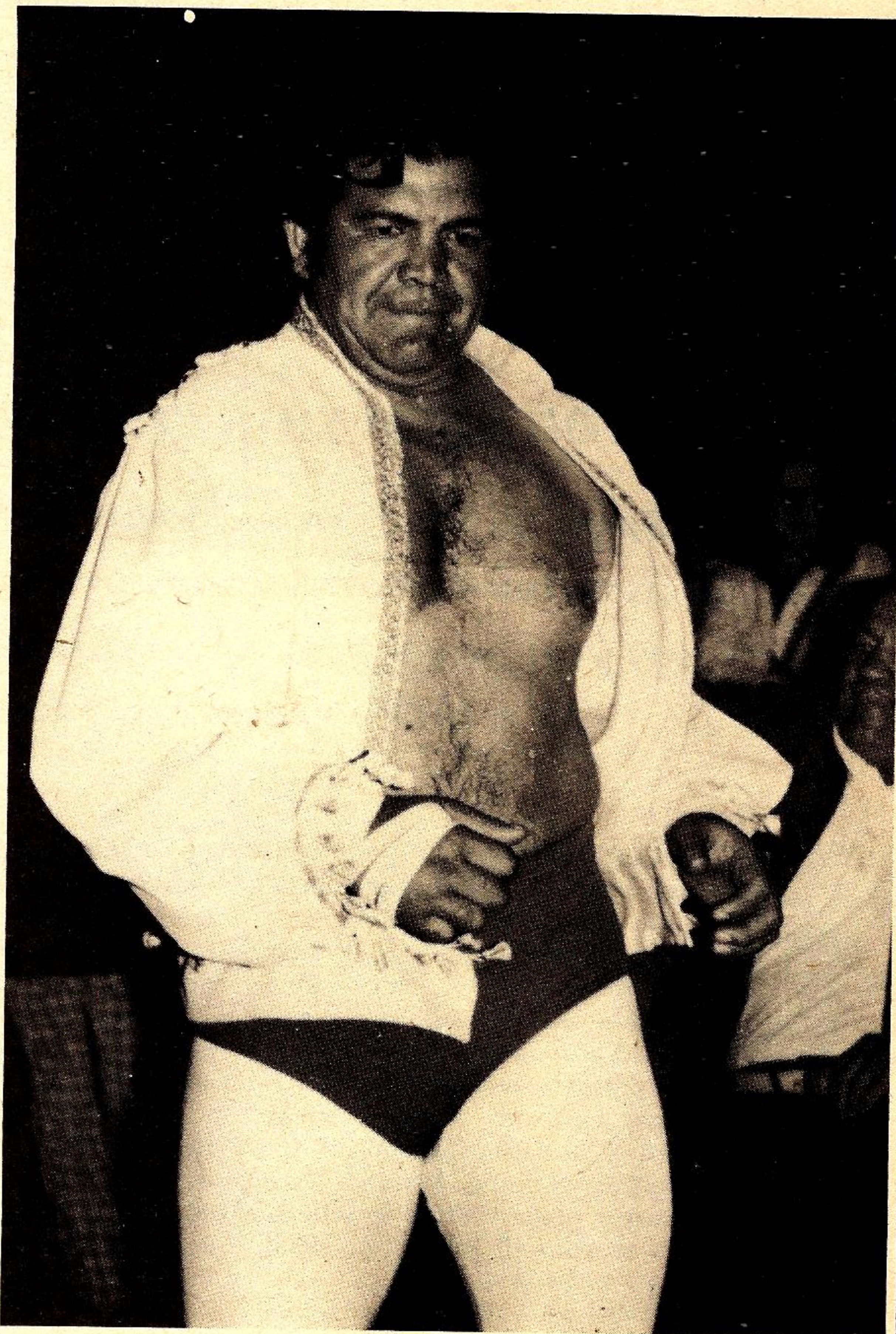
Mike has the price rolled back to 3 issues for \$2.00 in spite of the postal increase. That's great news. Mike's bulletins are very professional and well read. You must send for a copy so you can judge for yourself. Single issues are 75¢.

My apologies to my dear friend, Gene Gordon, for listing his address incorrectly. His right address is 419 Sylvania Avenue, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206. Gene sells black and white 8 x 10's and color 8 x 10's and 5 x 7's. Gene has a vast collections of the women wrestlers both posed and in action. He requires two 13¢ stamps for his lists. You must state which you interested in, Girls, Men or Midgets?? Sorry about the

wrong address, Gene. It won't happen again.

I was saddened to hear about the passing on of promoter Gust Karras. It was a great loss. But plans for the 1976 Ninth WFIA Wrestling Convention are still going strong. The Convention will be held this July 15, 16 and 17th at the Phillips House Hotel, 12th and Baltimore, Kansas City, Missouri 64105. There will be displays on wrestling, Wrestlers Fan Clubs plus an Amateur Photo Contest. Please write to Diane Devine of P.O. Box 1902, Bechtold Station, St. Louis, Mo. 63118 for further details. Fee will be \$20.00 per person

(Continued on page 10)



Bill Fordham took this photo of Jose Lothario.

FANS FORUM

which includes your wrestling and banquet tickets. Diane is the chairwoman and we wish her a lot of success with the Convention.

Bill Fordham of 1348 Nashville Street, San Diego, California 92110 has wrestling photos for sale. Write for his list.

John D. Lawson of 618 South Center Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808 has color photos for sale. Send two stamps for his list. He covers the WWA territory.

Photographer Barry Benghiat has moved. His new address is: 21-43 24th Street, Astoria, New York 11105. He has excellent photos and posters, write for his list.

Robert Collins of P.O. Box 152, Bonita Springs, Florida 33923 is interested in purchasing wrestling equipment, such as trunks, masks, etc. Robert wanted to know if Leon Barfield of Atlanta, Georgia is still selling wrestling equipment.

Bob Orton, Jr. Fan Club is under the supervision of Ray Peccorra of 233 N.W. 80 Terrace, Margate, Florida. The bulletin is called "Orton Express" and dues are \$4.00, write for further details.

Two more photographers—Scott Chlebove and Tom Onushco of 2665 Andrea Drive, Allentown, Pa. 18103.

Big Dust Fan Club—Mitch Davis of 5400 S.W. 12 Street, North Lauderdale, Florida 33065. The bulletin is called "American News", dues are \$4.00 per year. Mitch also sells wrestling photos.

Robert Aldrich of Bay Avenue, East Quogue, New York 11942 is interested in buying cassettes, programs, movies, clippings and photos of the I.W.A. stars. Please write to Robert if you can help him out.

David Mims of 501 East Carroll Street, Dothan, Alabama 36301 has just started the Ricky Gibson Fan Club. I did *not* receive a permission slip. Dues are \$2.00.

Always an excellent bulletin—"Spin"—dedicated to Geoff Portz. Rosemary runs the club very efficiently. Contact her at 34, Nemy Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2Y OK5 CANADA

John Vecchi has informed me that he has disbanded his club, W.W.W.F. Stars, because of lack of interest from the fans.

Ann Dachtler—President of The Ox Baker Fan Club has sent me her permission slip. Dues are \$4.00 per year for which you will receive nine 5x7 color photos, a membership card and tri-annual bulletins. Write to Ann at 4122 N. Melvina Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634.

AWA Report—Tom Savage of 508 North Westmore, Villa Park, Illinois 60181 still going strong. Tom is currently

conducting a poll to see who is the Favorite Wrestler, Favorite Tag Team, Most Hated Wrestler, Most Hated Tag Team, Most Hated Manager. The A.W.A. Annual is only 75¢ per copy and contains over 20 pages and over 20 photographs and is loaded with results and news.

Kurt Nilsen of 109 Oakside Drive, Smithtown, New York 11787 is interested in purchasing magazines from 1950 to 1970.

Mark Nelson of 782 St. Anne Drive, Dunedin, Florida 33528 is selling photos. Send him a self-addressed stamped envelope for his list.

Chuck Goldreyer of 1178 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11236 is interested in trading results, programs and clippings with fans from all over the United States and Canada. Chuck will answer all letters.

Donald Powaltz of Liberty, New York wants to know if there is a fan club for Dick the Bulldog Brower, as far as I know there is none.

Michael Gordon of 9739 North Keeler, Skokie, Illinois 60076 sent me some excellent color shots of the Valiants and Ox Baker. He has a new list, why not drop him a line?

Jeff Barnhardt of 904 Mount Olivet Road, Concord, North Carolina wants to trade results, clippings and programs with fans from Tampa, Memphis, Savannah, Atlanta, Roanoke, Houston, Chicago and the West Coast.

Tom Lyons of 4866 Newton Road, Hamburg, New York 14075 is still President of the Ernie Ladd Fan Club. Dues are \$2.50 per year and 50¢ for a sample bulletin. Tom also has old wrestling magazines for sale.

Burton Brown of 12 Mellow Lane, Westbury, New York 11590 wants to buy programs, magazines, news clippings and tape cassettes from all over the United States. No S.A.S.E. is necessary.

There's a brand new club—the Kevin Sullivan Fan Club. The president—Frank Tavella: P.O. Box 34, Revere, Mass. 02151. Dues are \$2.50 and the bulletin is called "Sullivan Power."

Mark Opsasnick of 114 Rosewood Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 has given up wrestling and is selling thousands of programs. For a sample and list, send 25¢ and a business-size S.A.S.E.

Steve Wheatley of 126 Rosewood Drive, Greenbelt, Md. 20770 wants to trade wrestling items with anyone, anywhere. Steve also wants to buy programs, photos, clippings and magazines.

Glenn Jones of 139 Tappan Street, Kearny, New Jersey 07032 is interested in exchanging results with fans all over

the United States and Canada.

FAN CLUB ADDRESSES

The Spiros Arion Fan Club: Bulletin—"The Man", President—Danny Drillis. His address is: 385 Chestnut Street—#208, Lynn, Mass. 01902 Dues have been lowered to \$3.00

Baltimore Civic Center Close-Ups. Write David Lopatin: 6815 Maurleen Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21209.

Tony Parisi & Louie Cerdan Fan Club. Write Grange Bernard: 24 Trident Avenue, Winthrop, Mass.

Dean Ho Fan Club. Write John Doramajian: 35 Winthrop Road, Everett, Mass. 02149. The bulletins are very good.

Dominic De Nucci & Pat Barrett Fan Club. Write Marge Forant: 65 Broad Street, North Attleboro, Mass.

The Valiant Brothers Fan Club. Write Marilea Niedzial: West Boylston Road, Berlin, Mass.

Bruno Sammartino Fan Club—Bulletin "The Backbreaker." Write President Dan Szafranski: 730 Edgewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15215.

I have heard from many sources that there will be a long awaited Superstar Billy Graham Fan Club started in the very near future, if all goes well. So all you fans that have written me asking that very question, the answer is "be patient."

Kevin Chmelnitzki of P.O. Box 246, Mt. Hope, Ontario CANADA LOR IWO is selling cassette recordings of wrestling matches. Please send 20¢ since the American stamp cannot be mailed from Canada to the United States.

For some excellent Florida photos contact Ruth Oman of 3011 N.W. 18 Terrace, Miami, Florida 33125. Her samples of Bill Dromo, Gino Bravo, Terry Funk, Steve Kern, Harley Race, (bleeding) and Bob Roop are fantastic, in one word.

Another brand new publication—"Headlock." Write Steve Bartlebaugh: 1810 Colfax Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201. For sample, send 50¢.

I received a permission slip and bulletin from the Chief Jay Strongbow Fan Club: President—Tom Maoli: 32 Hope Street, Nutley, New Jersey 07110. Vice President—Rich Moran 49 Hope Street, Nutley, New Jersey 07110.

For the "Canadian Wrestling Revue," write Rudy Iseli: 25 Fisherville Road, #809, Willowdale, Ontario, CANADA

"Global Wrestling New Service" is published monthly by Tom Burke of 31 Groveland Street, Springfield, Mass.

(Continued on page 12)

FANS FORUM

01108. Single issues are 25¢ plus a S.A.S.E. Four months for \$1.75. Tom will pay the postage.

Back in circulation again is "Georgia Wrestling News," put out by Jerry L. Boyd of Route 2—Box 690, Griffin, Georgia 30223.

Another brand new one—"The Providence Ringpost"—Paul Nonnenmacher of 10 Naples Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

"Lean Mean Machine" is the title of the bulletin for the Nick Bockwinkel Fan Club under the powerful hands of Mick Karch of 5621 Minnetonka Blvd, 210—St. Louis, Mo. 55416. Two more excellent photographers—David B. McLane: 4400 North Meridian, Indianapolis, Ind. 46208 and Scott Romer of 8216 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis, Ind. 46260.

Please don't forget if you want to be listed in my columns as a photographer you must send at least two samples which must be circled on your list.

Joe Colao of 21 Shorview Drive, Yonkers, New York 10710 just put out his first volume of "WWWF Mat Journal." It is very good. Single issue 75¢.

Still the very best—"Main Event": P.O. Box 163, Richmond Hill, New York 11418. \$5.00 for six months.

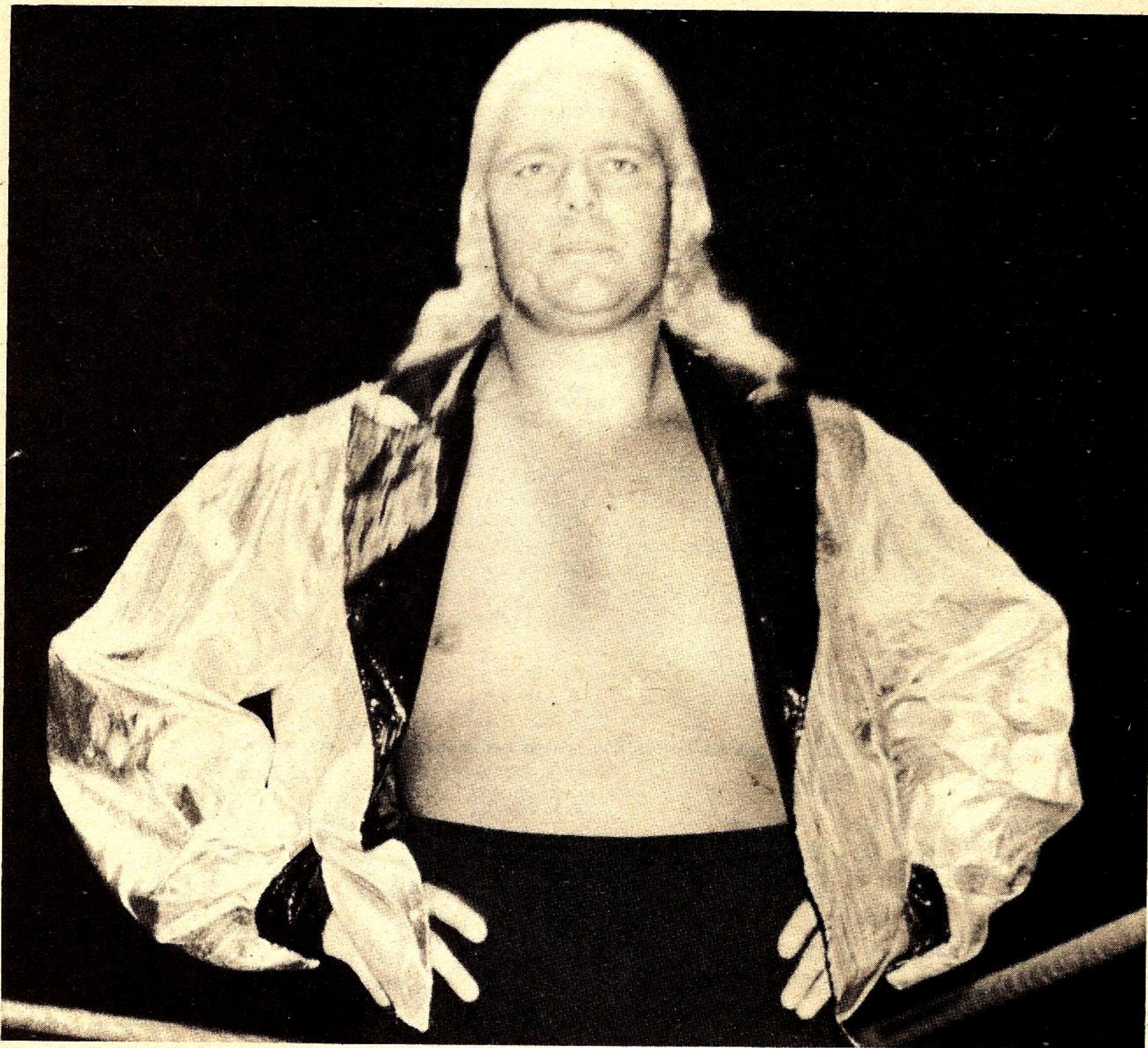
Another great—"On The Mat". Write Alan Kaminsky: 563 Westview Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey 07657. Membership is \$5.00 for the year and the bulletins go out faithfully every month.

Ken M. Jugan has informed me he is disbanding the Greg Valentine Fan Club due to lack of interest.

"Three Rivers Wrestling" is going great guns though, single issue is still 75¢. It is about 20 pages in length and very easy and interesting reading.

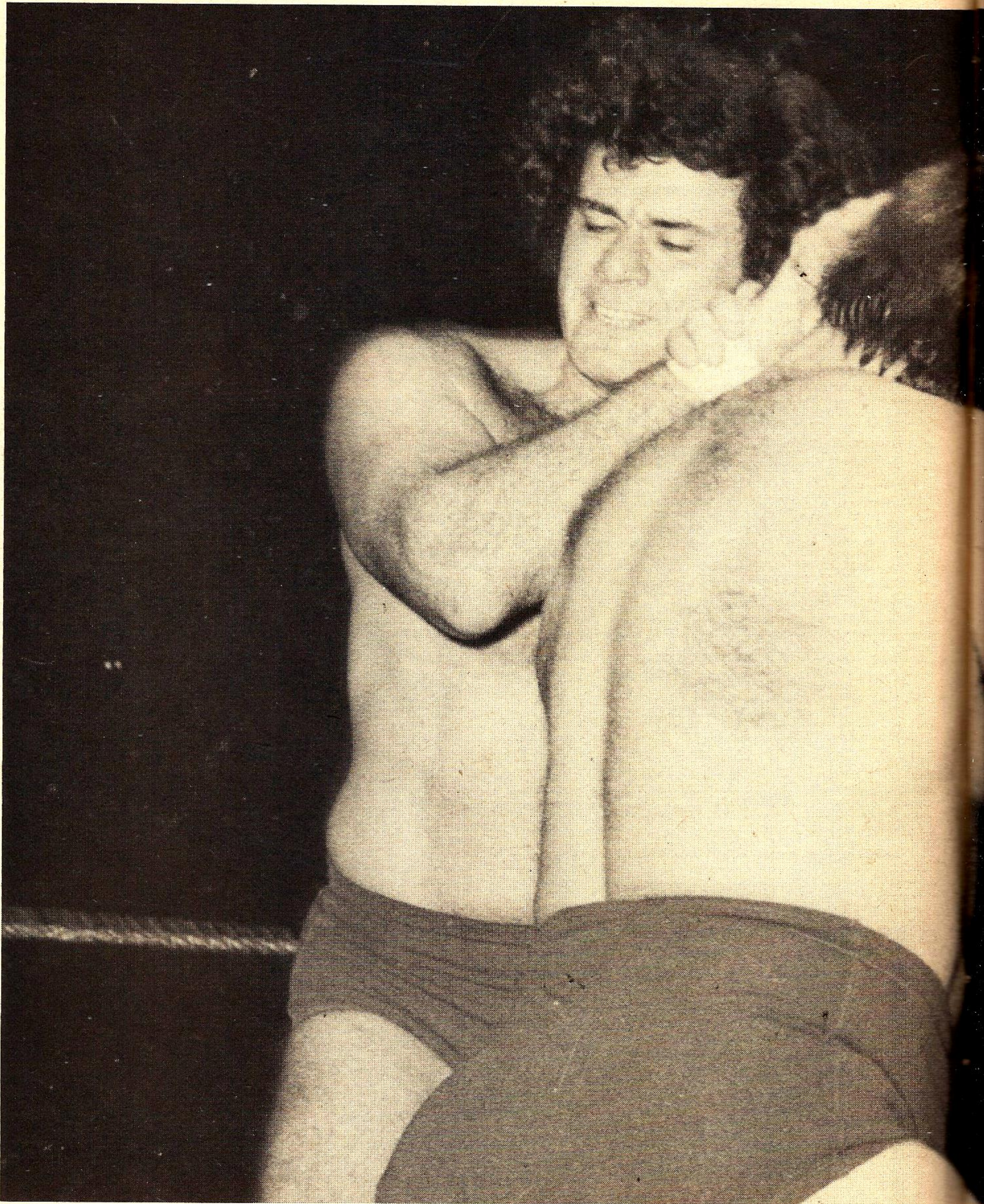
Jay Rosen and Jimmy Mack host of the WHBI Wrestling Radio Show are now selling a 45 rpm record produced by them. On side one is "A Night At The Garden" and on side two is "An Interview With Captain Lou (Albano)." This sells for \$1.00 plus 25¢ for postage and handling and can be obtained by writing to WHBI-FM: 80 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, % Jay Rosen or Jimmy Mack. A must for every wrestling fan.

Well, that about closes it up until the next issue, it's been fun, keep all the mail coming my way. Stay happy and support the No. 1 sport—WRESTLING!



Terrance Machalek snapped this shot of Jimmy Valiant.

The Night Spiros Arion



Escaped DEATH!

BY BOB TRINGALI

The referee raised his hand in triumph. It was a relatively easy victory. Inside of five minutes, he had practically destroyed his opponent. It was a big win. It occurred in Philadelphia and was seen by millions of fans on television throughout the Northeast. The convincing triumph made Spiros Arion the leading contender to World Wide Wrestling Federation champion Bruno Sammartino. Arion knew it at that moment. And so did Fred Blassie, his quick thinking manager.

Arion savored the victory. He raised both his arms high and pranced around the ring glaring at the crowd. Whenever he started to bring his arm down, Blassie would quickly grab it and raise it back up. He did it with a sneering look at the fans, the way he always did when he wrestled. Blassie loved every minute of it. The more they booed, the more he would growl back at them. Arion and Blassie were riding high. They knew where the next stop would be. In a couple of weeks Arion would face Sammartino in a title match in New York's Madison Square Garden. That alone meant big money.

After a final victory gesture, the two left the ring. Blassie walked down the aisle leading the way for his triumphant protege. He was still trading insults with the fans as the pair headed for the dressing room, Blassie resplendent in a pink double knit walk suit and Arion only in black tights. It was quite a contrast but then nobody can match Blassie's wardrobe.

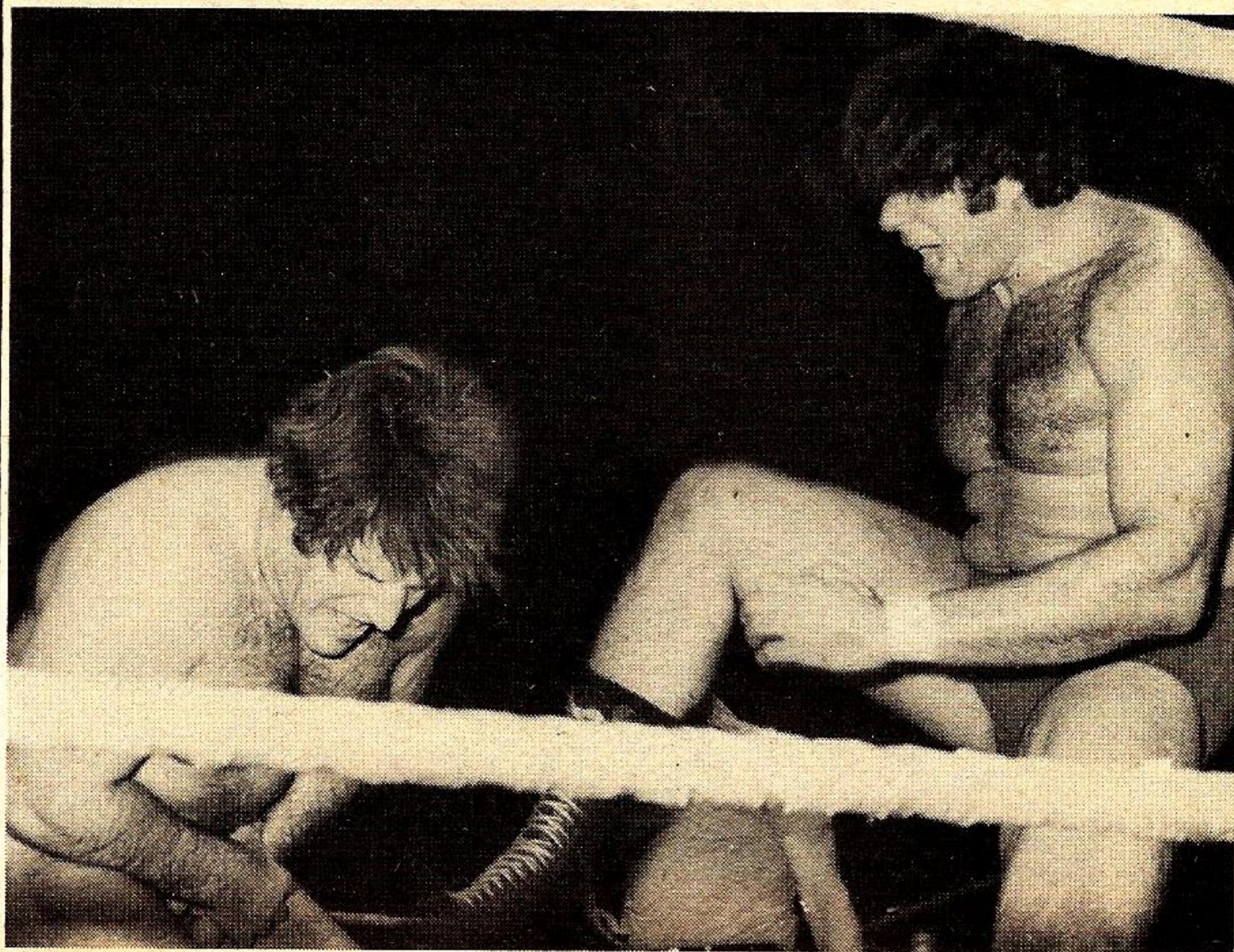
Suddenly, a fan sprung at Arion. He was brandishing a knife and he lunged at Arion.

Arion's biggest scare didn't occur in the ring, but out of it. He was attacked by a fan who knifed him in the chest, just missing his heart.



Above: Arion and Von Erich in the Philadelphia arena.

Below: One of Arion's favorite maneuvers is kneeling his opponent. Here he does his thing to the champ.



The big wrestler managed to put up his hands at the last moment to thwart his attacker. But it was too late. The knife pierced Arion just below his right chest. This was what the television fans didn't see.

Neither did Blassie for that matter. It happened so quickly that he was completely unaware of the incident. The police rushed in and apprehended the berserk fan. They escorted Arion safely to his dressing room and quickly summoned for a doctor who arrived within minutes.

Blassie was enraged with what had happened. Fortunately, the knife only lanced Arion's skin and the wound wasn't serious. It only took a couple of stitches to close it. Still, Blassie was outraged.

"We should have had better protection from the police or the arena, whoever is responsible," fumed Blassie. "There is no way this should have happened. Why, if it was Sammartino, you could bet he would have been protected. He gets as much security as the president of the United States. They should have taken the proper precautions to safeguard Arion.

"I warned them before the match to make sure of it. But they didn't listen. The incident is serious enough but think of how serious it would have been if that creep with the knife got to Arion good."

The entire atmosphere surrounding Arion has changed drastically. When he appeared in the U.S. six years ago, he was cheered and loved by fans. But since his return from Greece less than two years ago, Arion has been booed and insulted by fans all along the East Coast. Which hasn't bothered him in the least.

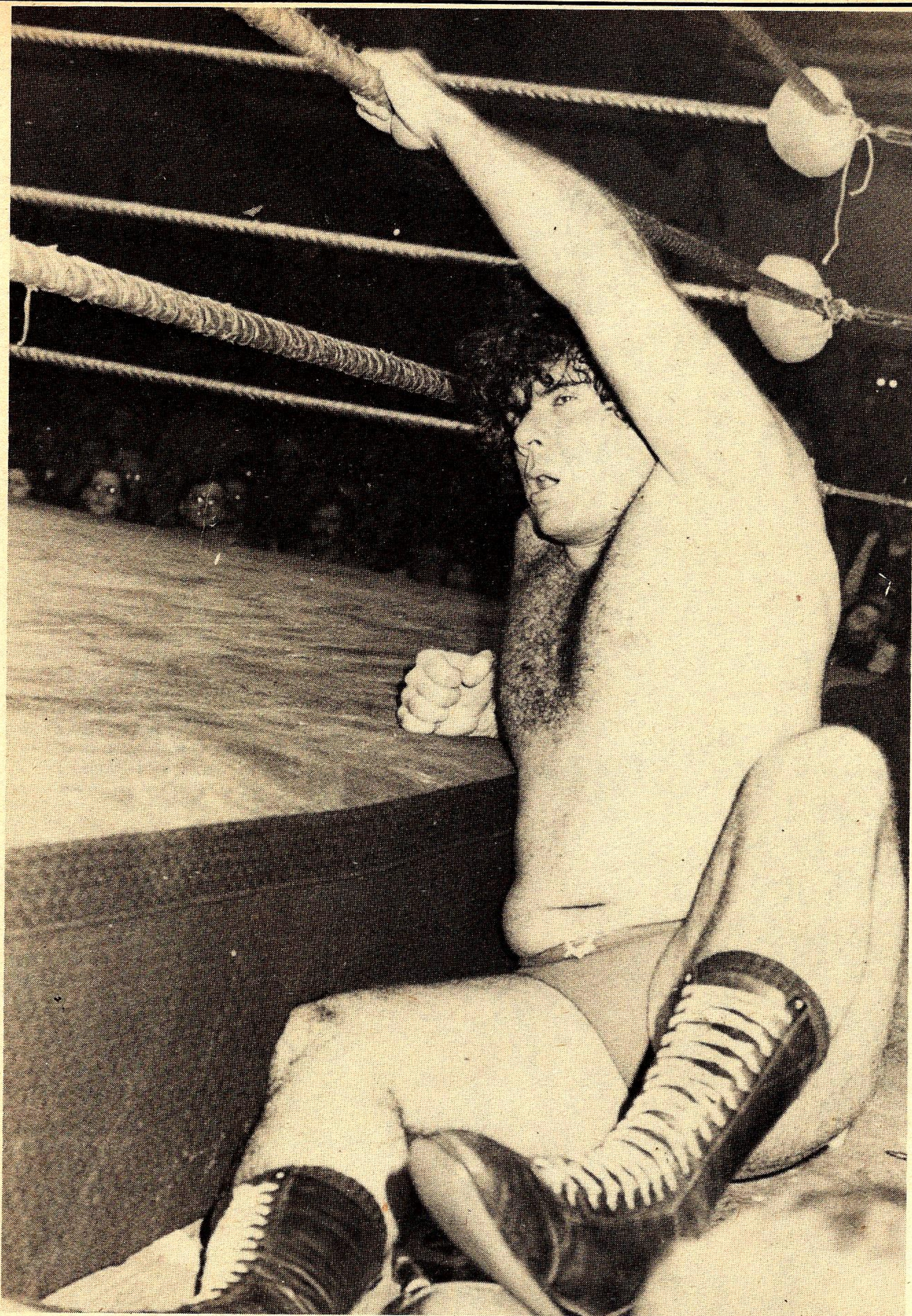
"I haven't changed," remarked Arion who had now finished dressing and was trying to relax following his harrowing experience. "I'm the same. It's the people around me who have changed. The ones I trusted.

"I have no feeling for the fans. I don't care anything about them. They can boo me all they want. Let them realize that I am not the Golden Greek but the Iron Greek. I'm not afraid of anyone. I'll wrestle anybody. I'm tougher and smarter than when I was here six years ago.

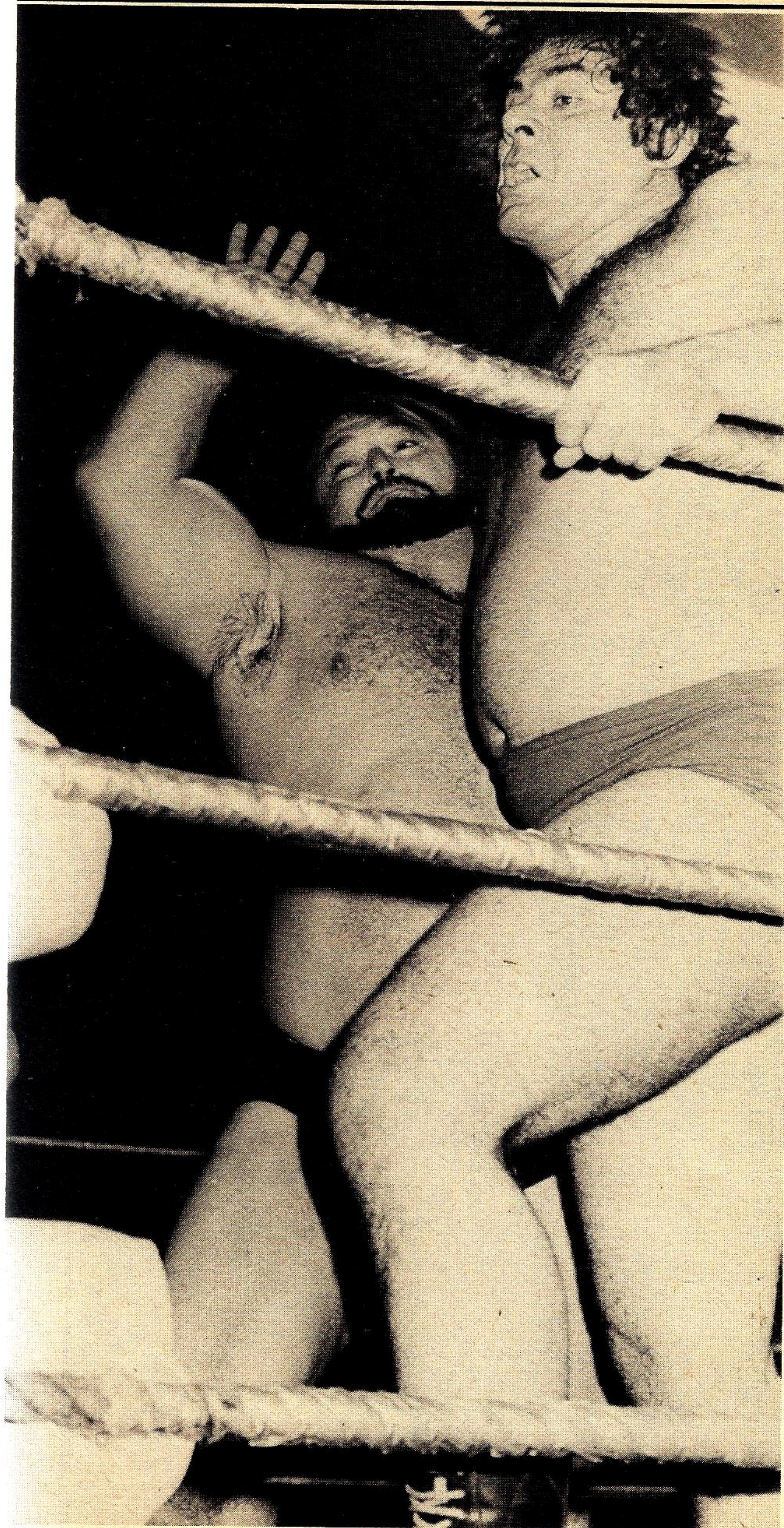
"What I forgot in wrestling the whole bunch of stooges that follow Sammartino and his Indian buddy Jay Strongbow will never learn. They don't know anything. They don't know where it's really at. They all want to follow Bruno who is like a cow with a bell tied around his neck.

"Sure I used to be a nice guy. But who needs it? It didn't put any money in my pocket. Do you know who is a nice guy? Fred Blassie is, that's who. He showed me the way. How to make money and at the same time don't trust anyone. How true that has been for me now."

Even though he doesn't smile as



A knife-brandishing fan lunged at Arion, piercing him just below the right chest. Luckily, the wound only required a few stitches.



much, Arion is nevertheless still handsome. He is tall, dark and Greek. His hair is much curlier and longer than it was before. Which he prefers because it gives him a feeling of strength and superiority, much like Hercules, who also happened to be Greek.

Actually, Arion and Sammartino were once close. They even were tag team partners. They not only were a top team, but they were popular, too. The fans loved the combination. But that's all over with now. They are poles apart, hated rivals in the ring.

Just the mention of Sammartino sends Blassie in a rage. And it's understandable. When he was wrestling, Blassie was a chief torment to Sammartino. And if you listen to Blassie tell it, he beat Sammartino every time but never was acknowledged as the winner. Unequivocally, Blassie felt that he was robbed of the title.

"What did Sammartino ever do for Arion?" asked Blassie. "Bruno took him under his wing and promised him everything. And Spiros believed in him. Arion was good, real good. Bruno recognized it and knew that Arion would be a threat to him. So what did he do? Why, he got him booked in such far off places as New Zealand, Japan, Australia, the Orient and South Africa. That's what he did for Arion. Got him to travel.

"When he came back, Sammartino talked him into teaming with Strongbow. Why, I could see what was happening. I tried to warn Arion but he wouldn't believe me. He told me that Sammartino promised him a shot at his title. I told him that it would never happen.

"So, Arion learned the hard way. One night when he was hit from behind by Strongbow. Can you imagine that? He turned on his own partner. How can you trust an Indian? Arion was stunned. The next thing he did was to pick up a chair and hit Strongbow.

"It didn't end there. Before you knew it, Sammartino rushed into the ring to help Strongbow. He started swinging at Arion before he was restrained by a couple of other wrestlers. As soon as he got dressed and left the arena, Arion called me at home. He was furious. He described what took place and apologized for doubting me. Then in the same breath he told me that he wanted me to manage him."

So, Arion went from good guy to villain in the course of one night. He was bitter and bewildered. Before he was happy and trusted everybody. Now he was surly and trusted only one person,

Left: Spiros the Greek tosses Ivan Putski into the metal turn buckle.

Blassie. It's strange. Down through the years no one ever trusted Blassie.

On the surface the new allegiance appears odd. Arion is tall and dark and Blassie is shorter with shiny bleached hair. But that's only the physical part. Arion has a great deal of respect for Blassie. And Blassie has a high regard for Arion. So, they are content from that aspect at least.

"I always knew that Arion was a good wrestler," disclosed Blassie, "but I knew that he could be a great one. He was lacking a few things, namely viciousness. So, I had to show him a few tricks, ones that I had mastered over the years. I knew he was intelligent so I felt he wouldn't have any problem learning.

"The first thing I showed him was how to effectively hit his opponent in the

groin. He picked it up naturally. Anything I asked him to do, he didn't hesitate in doing. I told him to not only beat his opponent but to cripple him. That's the quickest way to get respect.

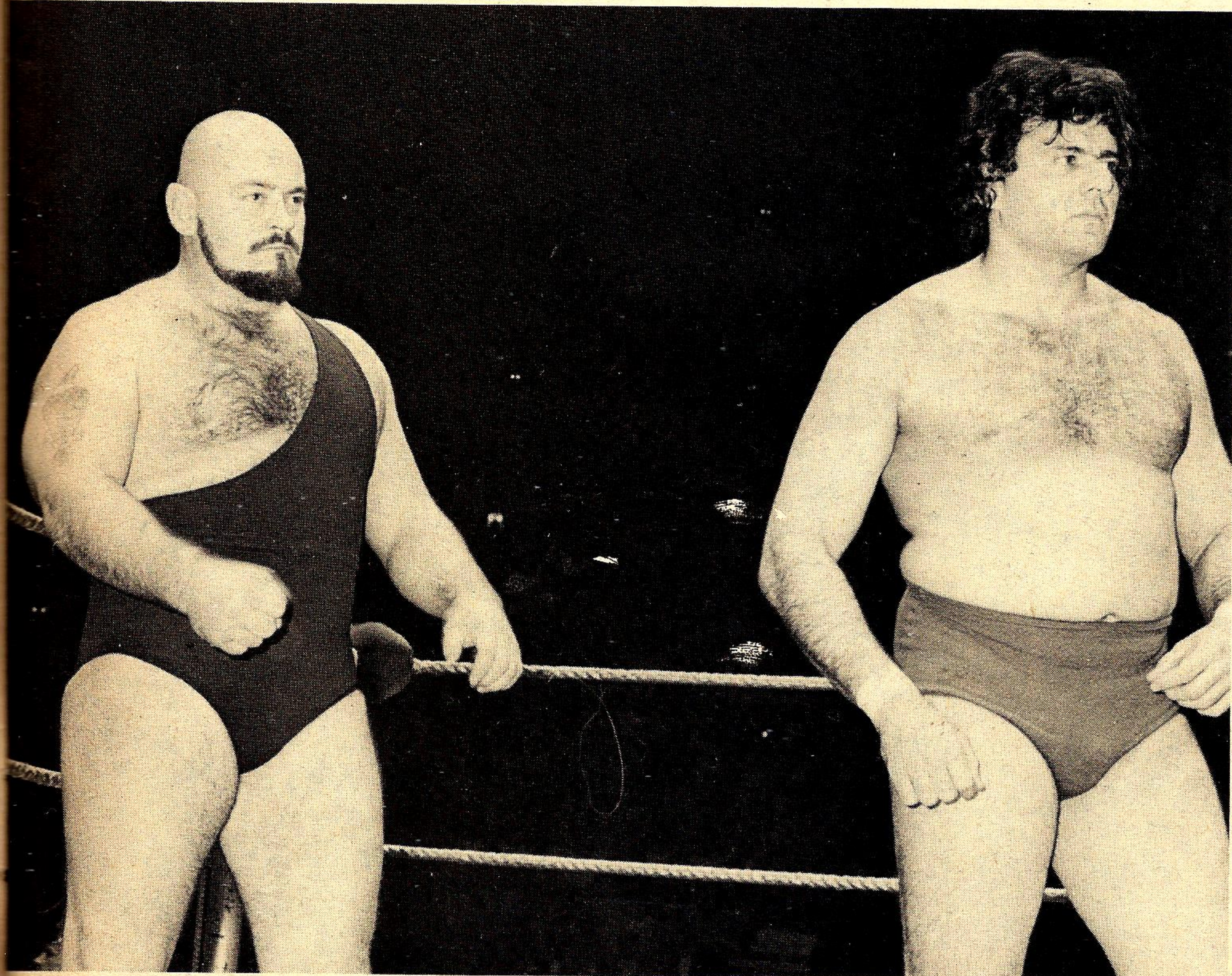
"Then I told him not to worry about the fans and what they think. Who are they anyway? Now he agrees with me 1,000 percent that the fans in the east are the most stupid he has seen. It figures. Anybody who cheers for bums like Sammartino, Strongbow, Pedro Morales or Tony Garea to mention a few pencil neck geeks, have to be either stupid or visiting a psychiatrist regularly.

"Arion absorbed everything that I taught him like a sponge. He's beautiful. He's so much smarter than Sammartino. That Bruno only knows one thing, to go straight ahead. Why, he used to sign his

name with a circle but he couldn't make the ends meet. Now he uses an x. He is by far the densest Italian I have ever met. When he was growing, his arms, legs and chest grew but his brain didn't develop."

Blassie ended the conversation on that final disparaging remark about Sammartino. What concerned him now was Arion who was resting across the room all the while Blassie was talking. He managed a weak smile when Blassie walked over. They talked for a few moments and then left together.

As they approached the door, Blassie opened it and summoned the police. He wanted to make certain that they were escorted out of the building. Then he looked back and smiled. It's not every night that he orders the cops around . . .



Arion meets Ivan Koloff in a bout. Says Arion: "I am not the Golden Greek but the Iron Greek. I'm not afraid of anyone. I'll wrestle anyone. I'm tougher and smarter than when I was here before."

"I ADMIT I BREAK THE RULES,"

Confesses Angelo Mosca

BY ALLAN BOLTE

Mosca: "I'm tired of the rules. They're made for sissies and I'm no sissy. I always end up being disqualified. You know what? There shouldn't be any rules in wrestling."

It was 8 o'clock on a surprisingly warm January night and the crowd was quiet. Bicentennial signs and posters were hanging throughout the huge, beautiful Las Vegas Convention Center and the arena was packed to the rafters. It was the first all-star card to start off the 1976 year and a triple main event was to take place. The public had heard about the big card through television, radio and newspaper advertising. In thirty minutes the excitement would begin.

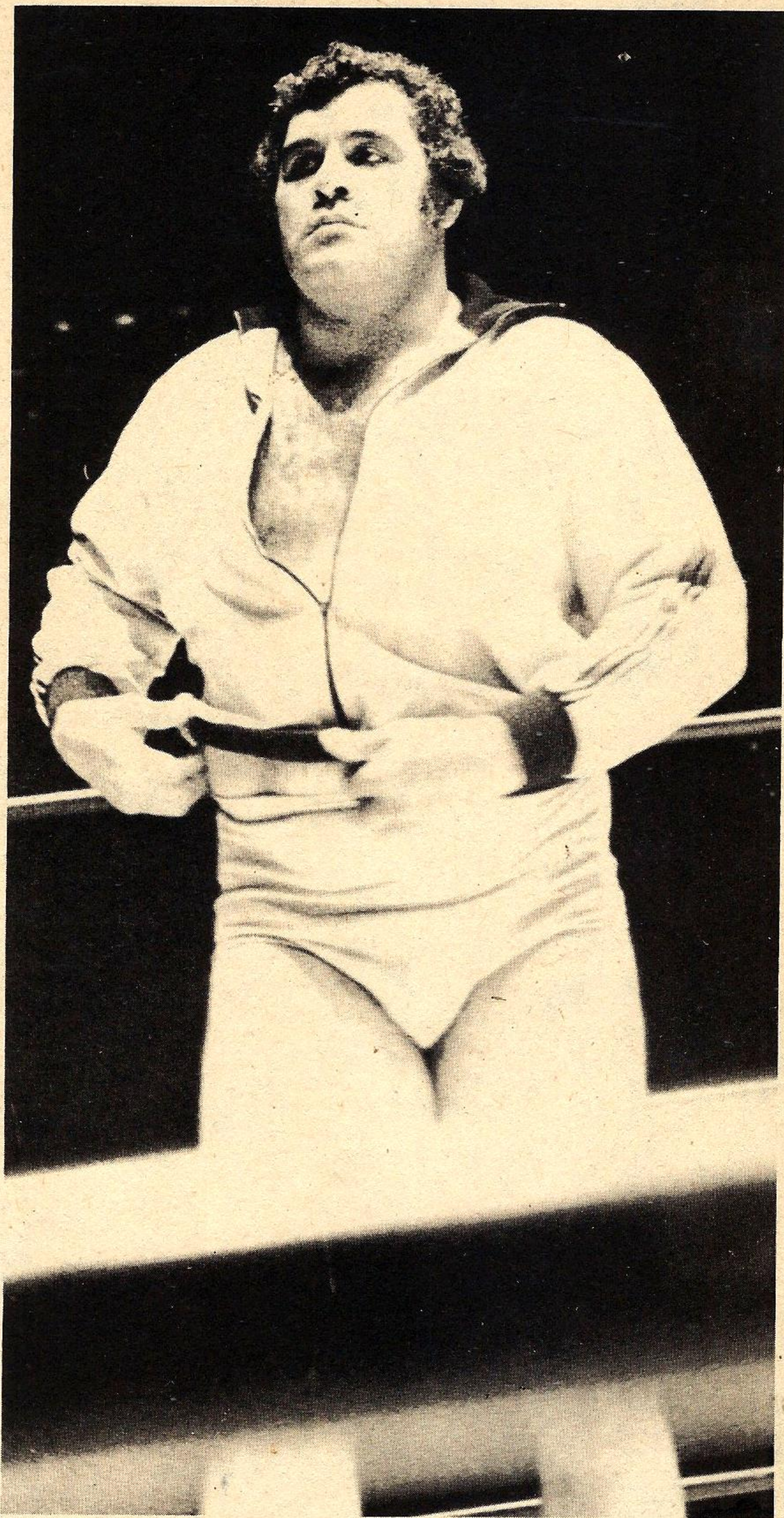
The preliminaries came and went, which warmed up the fans for the start of the big triple main event. Big, rugged Angelo Mosca of Italy was going against Mexico's Gran Marcus, the popular masked champion of Mexico. Both wrestlers are highly rated and it was anyone's guess as to who would win the match.

One thing was for sure. There wasn't a Mosca fan in the house. Everyone was for Marcus all the way, mainly because Marcus liked playing fair and square whereas Mosca loved breaking the rules.

The crowd shouted their support for Marcus when he ran down the aisles, entered the ring, waved to the fans and warmed up for the match. The cheers turned to jeers as big Mosca stomped towards the ring, stepped over the ropes and shouted at the fans. He then tore up a fan's autograph book and program as Marcus was signing autographs.

Peter Mavia has Mosca in a bit of trouble.

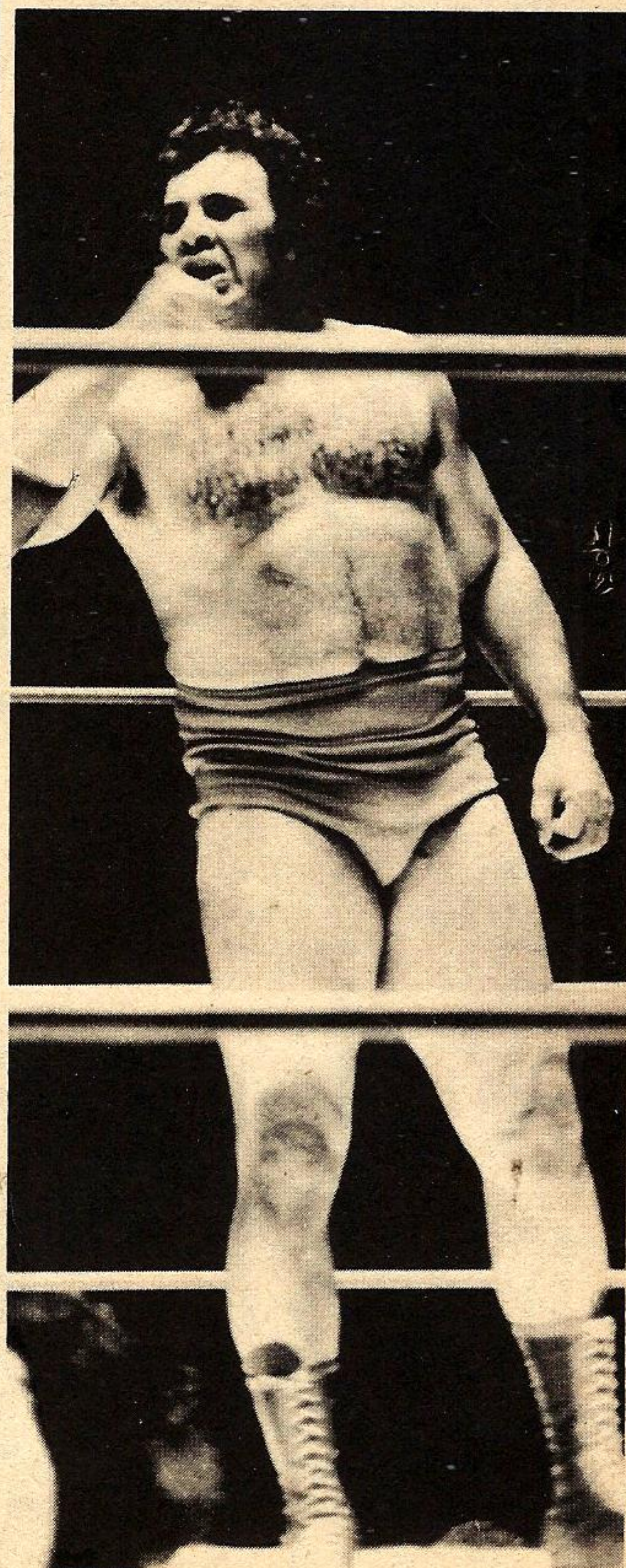




Mosca: "You ask why I don't follow the rules? It's very simple. I never believed in rules. Hell, if I knew I could get away with it I'd be out robbing a bank right now."

The announcer introduced both wrestlers and the referee was giving instructions to the wrestlers. Marcus returned to his corner and removed his entrance jacket when suddenly Mosca jumped Marcus while his back was turned though the bell hadn't yet rung. Mosca ripped Marcus' jacket and kicked and hit him, then threw him through the ropes and out onto the cement floor. The referee finally ordered that the bell be rung and the bout officially started.

Marcus tried re-entering the ring but walked right into a boot in the face as Mosca kicked him back out. The giant Italian came out after Marcus and dished out more punishment to his opponent for the evening and the fans were upset.



Finally, Marcus climbed back onto the apron and as Angelo came towards him Marcus threw his shoulder into his opponent's midsection and was ready for revenge.

Marcus tore into Mosca and bounced him around the ring but he still couldn't hold down the big man. Mosca punched and stomped and then really worked Marcus over. Mosca held him in a side headlock and then ran his head into the corner turnbuckles. He held him in a side headlock and was hiding a choke hold from the referee's view. He then squeezed the Mexican with all his might in a bearhug. Just before Marcus was about to give up Mosca dropped him, climbed to the top rope and threw all his

303 pounds on the helpless, fallen Marcus. He still refused to pin him. He drove his knee into his throat and finally pinned Marcus to win the first fall.

The two minute rest period didn't seem very long to Gran Marcus and when the bell sounded to begin the second fall, Mosca again worked him over. He ripped away at Marcus' eyes and nose and mouth and then sunk his teeth into Marcus' nose and mouth, tearing at the flesh. He then threw him out of the ring and slammed his head against the wooden press table and the referee warned the Italian about his rule-breaking.

That didn't stop big Mosca. He broke every rule in the books and then choked

and bit Marcus. The referee constantly warned him about the rule-breaking, but Mosca failed to heed the warning. The referee finally stopped the fall and disqualified Mosca for unsportsmanlike conduct, giving the second fall to Marcus.

This irritated Mosca, who swung at the referee and beat the hell out of Marcus. By the time he was finished with him, Marcus was a bloody mess and it took three wrestlers to pull Mosca off of Marcus. The match ended up a "no-contest" and when they fought again during their rematch with no disqualification, Mosca won the match two straight falls.

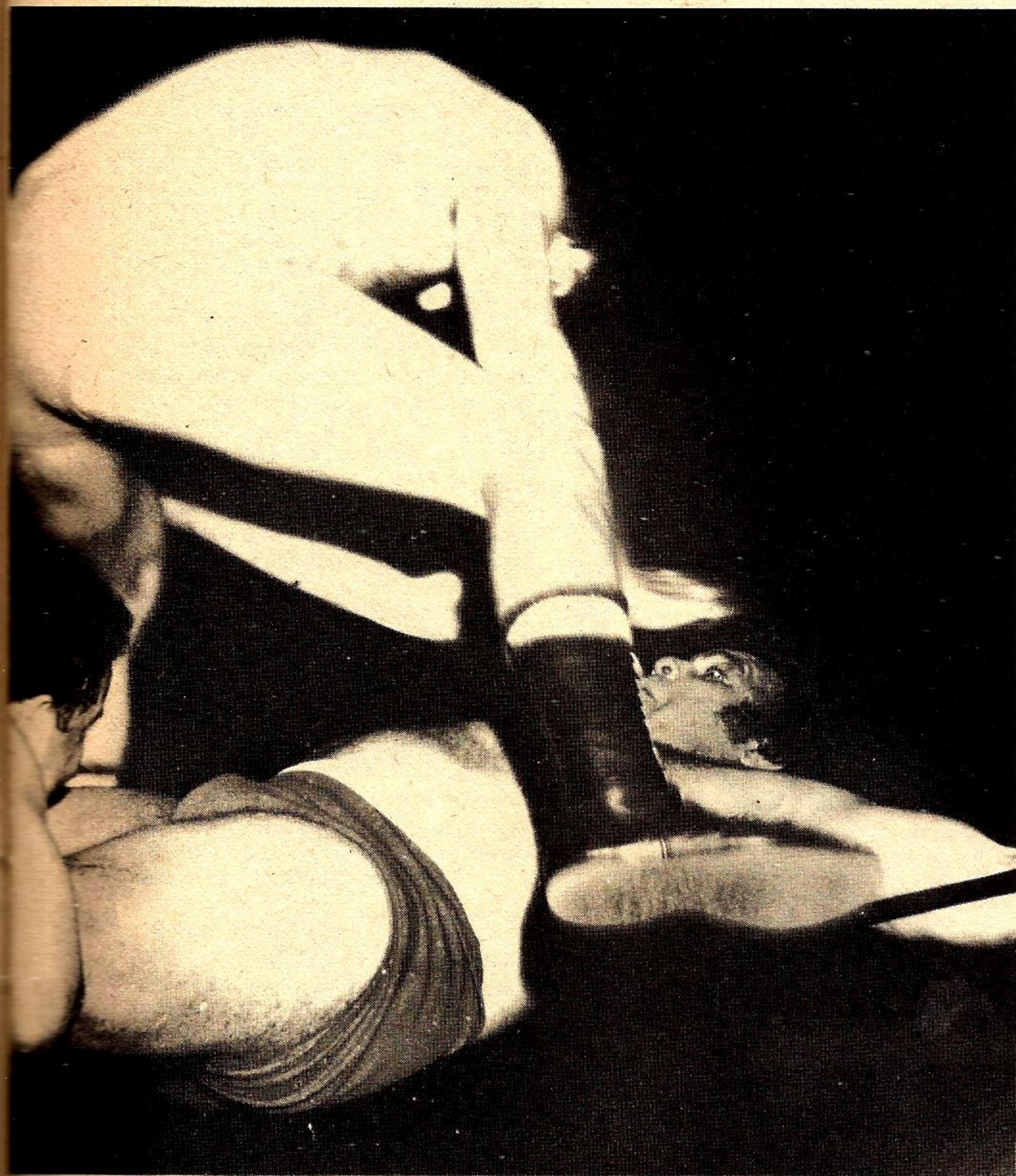
"You saw the way I handled Gran Marcus," Mosca shouted after his match. "That's the way I handle all my opponents. I'll admit Marcus is no pushover. However when you're as big, strong and rough as me, no one can come close to giving me a hard time. The referee disqualified me and that irritated me. No one should irritate Angelo Mosca. No one! The referee did and look at what happened to him. Sure, I got fined \$250 for hitting the referee, but what's that? The more money I make from winning matches, the more money I have.

"I am tired of the rules in wrestling. They're made for sissies and I'm no sissy. I always end up being disqualified. You know what? There should be no rules in wrestling. It's guys like Pat Patterson, Pedro Morales, Gran Marcus, Peter Maivia and others who insist on having rules for babies. Well, maybe these guys are babies but I'm not. After all, there's only one Angelo Mosca in wrestling and it's too bad because if there were two, it would be a helluva tag team. The only other wrestler who comes close to my ability is Moondog Mayne. He and I were tag teaming and we were pretty damned good. Mayne is good, I'll admit, but not half as good as me."

Seeing Mosca up close is something else. He stands 6'-3" tall and weighs generally between 303 and 313 pounds. He has a size 15 shoe and he loves jamming it down an innocent opponent's throat. Mosca is downright mean and evidently hasn't heard of following a rule.

"You ask why I don't follow the rules?" Mosca asks. "It's very simple. I never believed in rules. Hell, if I knew I could easily get away with it, I could be out robbing a bank right now! All sports are rougher than ever before. Professional athletes, particularly in contact sports like wrestling, boxing and football, are always throwing in the ol' elbow once in a while and wrestling is no exception.

"After all, if I don't do it first my opponent will. I love money and winning



Mosca is in serious trouble as he is caught in the ropes.

means money—breaking the rules means an easy win. At least I'm not afraid to admit to my sadistic, roughhouse style of grappling. That's more than you can say for a lot of these guys."

That it is. Mosca never fails to admit to his style of wrestling and many have wondered where and why he picked up these illegal antics. After taking a look at his past, however, many fans are surprised that he's not a regular sport like Pedro Morales, Bruno Sammartino, Jack Brisco and Pat Patterson.

Mosca played professional football for the Canadian Football League for three years, eight years ago. He dropped football to turn full time to wrestling because he liked the idea of rougher, individual competition.

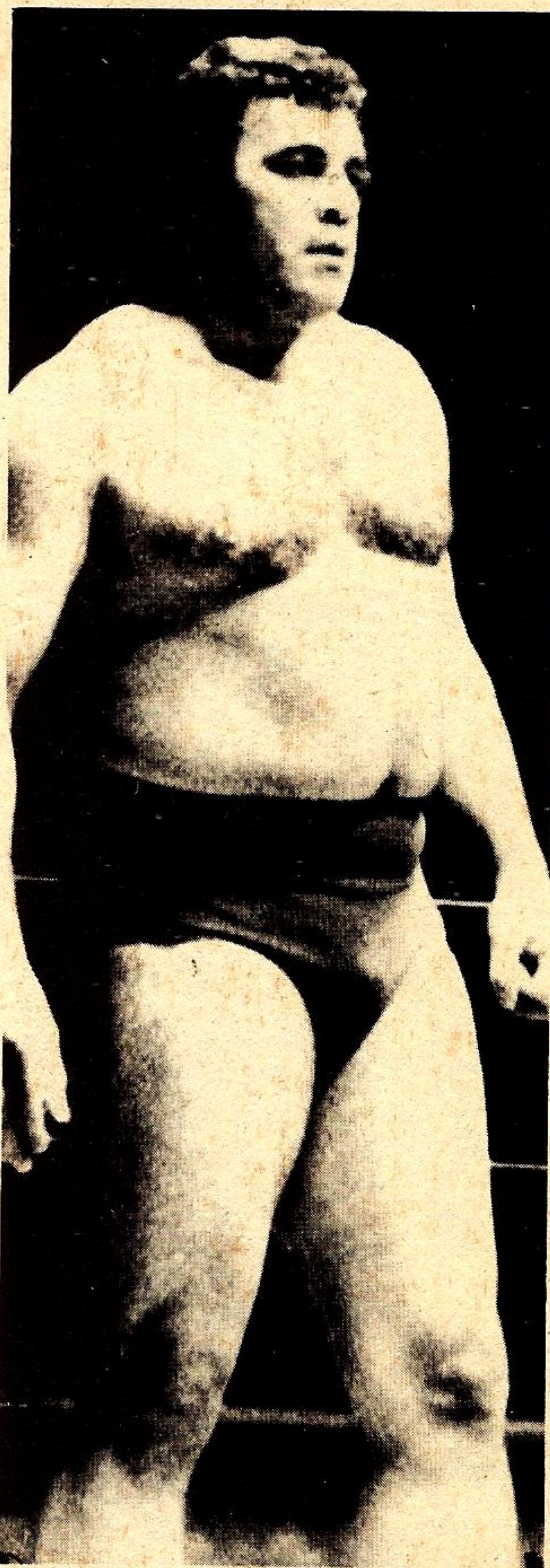
"In football there are teammates you must share a win with or blame a loss on. In wrestling it's one man against one man and that's what I like. Wrestling is much tougher and rougher than football and I like that, too. I prefer single wrestling to tag wrestling for the same reason, although if the promoters really want me to team up with a wrestler, I will. The only wrestler I've enjoyed teaming with was wild Moondog Mayne. We were called 'The "M" Squad' and we were murder, incorporated. After about four months of teaming we went our separate ways."

Mosca has been a professional wrestler for ten years and always is listed at the top of the ratings. His vicious, deadly finishing holds enable him to remain undefeated, match after match after match. His favorite is the "upside-down-bearhug," which is a regular bearhug however he picks his foe up and turns him upside down which forces the blood to rush to his head. Once it is applied, there is no way to escape the hold and Mosca has recently perfected the hold. In fact, he invented it himself and none can properly copy it although others have unsuccessfully tried.

Another of his choice winning holds is the bearhug and the flying elbow drop. Because of Mosca's great size and strength, it doesn't take long before an opponent gives up the match. The flying elbow drive sees him body-slam his opponent and climb to the top rope. He jumps off and lands with his elbow across his fallen opponent's throat. Obviously, it's quite painful.

Just why does Mosca always break the rules?

"There are many reasons why I break



Mosca: "I am the Muhammad Ali of wrestling. I am the king of the ring. I am the roughest, toughest, strongest athlete in wrestling."

them," Mosca answered. "I admit I break them. It means less work and more money—that's exactly what it boils down to. The winner of the match receives more money and if I break the rules I'm assured of the victory. Also, it takes me less time to defeat my opponent when I break the rules and at \$3 to \$5 a ticket, the wrestling fans should be allowed to see me in the ring only for a few minutes. Sure, I could easily defeat my opponents by following the rules but I like my roughhouse style better. Once in a while I get disqualified but that's because the referees are afraid my opponents will get hurt. So what if they get hurt!

"I have a sadistic streak in me and I don't know if I was born with it or what. But I know that I love nothing better than hurting my opponent seriously and I'm not happy unless I'm busting someone's skull. That's another reason why I like breaking the rules. It's one thing to win my match and an entirely different situation when I've won my match and my opponent is in the hospital. I really sleep at night with a smile when I know my ignorant challenger is laid up in the hospital somewhere."

It's a wonder that Mosca chooses to break the rules when you consider the size of the man. We agree with him when he says he could defeat his opponent if he followed the rules. Many of the villains in the sport wouldn't know what a wrestling hold was if it hit them in the head, but not so Mosca. He has proven in the ring that he really can wrestle by mastering flying head-locks, takedowns and arm and leglocks.

Yet, he constantly chooses to break the rules, calling himself the "king of the ring." "I am the Muhammad Ali of wrestling," Mosca shouted in a recent television interview. "I am the king of the ring, and no one can defeat me. I am the roughest, strongest, and toughest athlete in wrestling and no one comes close to possessing the abilities that I have. That's why I will soon be the World's Heavyweight Wrestling Champion!"

It's possible. Indeed Angelo Mosca is rough and strong enough to do all that he insists he will do. Although he hasn't won any championship yet, there's always that first time. And there is plenty of stiff competition ready to attempt to handle him. However, it'll take a mighty wrestler to upset Mosca.

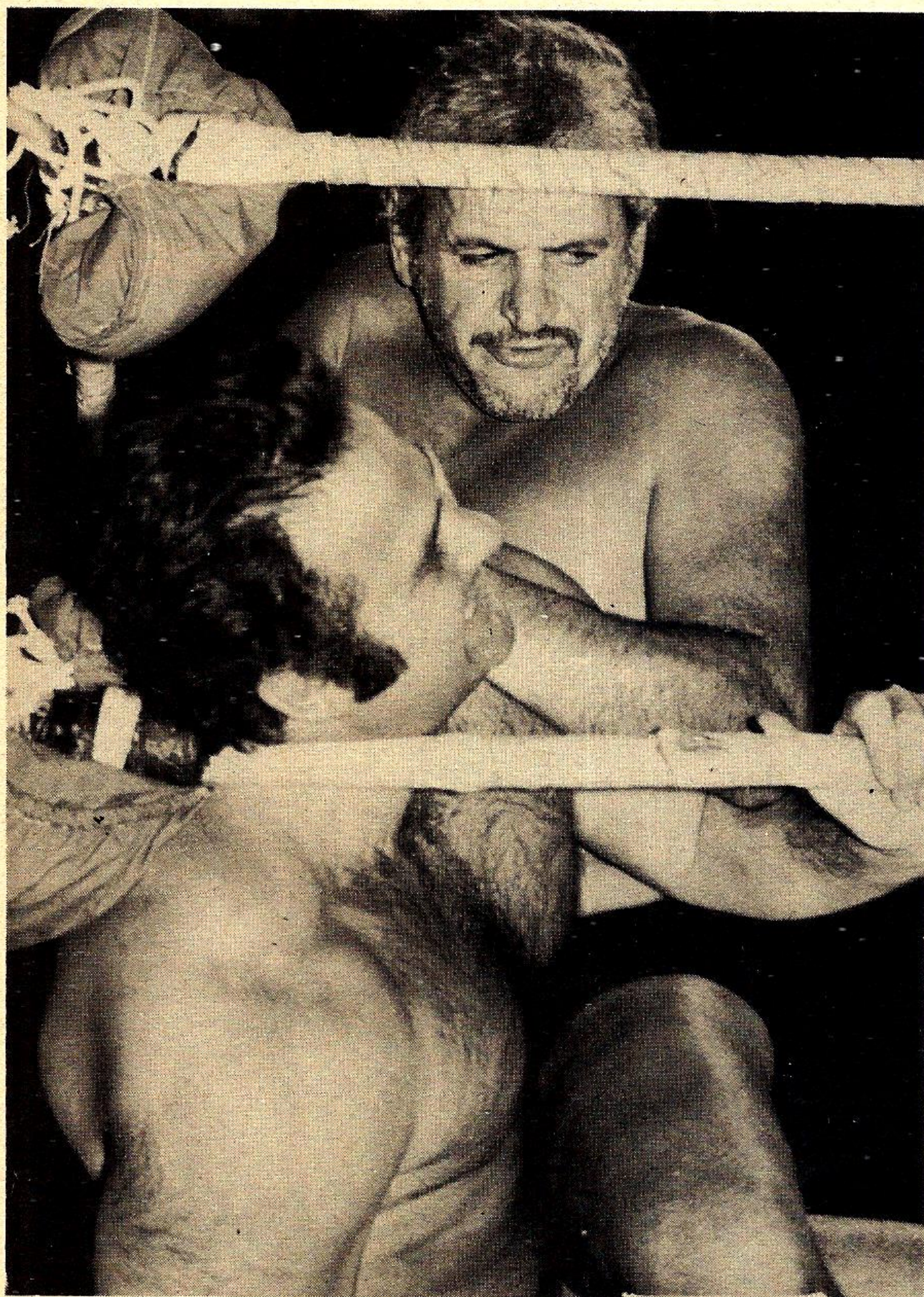


The Sheik carries a small prayer rug with him inside the ring and unfolds it before a match while offering prayers to Allah in typical Moselm fashion.

Should The Sheik Be Banned?

BY BOB TRINGALI

"It's a plot," charges his manager Abdullah Farouk. "The fans want to see The Sheik suspended and barred from the ring. Isn't that ridiculous? What do they know anyway?"



The Sheik's manager, Farouk: "His opportunity is a drawing card alone. He is so hated that the fans turn out just to boo him. Who is animalistic, the fans or him?"

He's a little older now. The gray around his temples and throughout his hair is more obvious. Yet, his muscles appear more supple and his physique well defined. He's never been in better shape throughout his long and tempestuous career as one of wrestling's biggest box office attractions. He's as mysterious as he's always been and that, too, accounts for the charisma of The Sheik.

He sat alone in a private room, which is his style. He relishes the solitude. A large sign on the door marked "Keep Out" insured his privacy. In front of his neatly kept locker was a prayer rug, symbolic of his Moslem faith. As he sat, he was in deep meditation. As always, The Sheik remained silent. That, too, has been a characteristic down through the years.

The only other person in the room was Abdullah Farouk, the Sheik's loyal manager. He was colorfully attired in a red sequined jacket, white slacks and maroon patent leather boots. He wore a green silk scarf with a diamond stick pin, sun glasses and a new red fez. To say the least, he was something else. Peter Lorre would have been jealous.

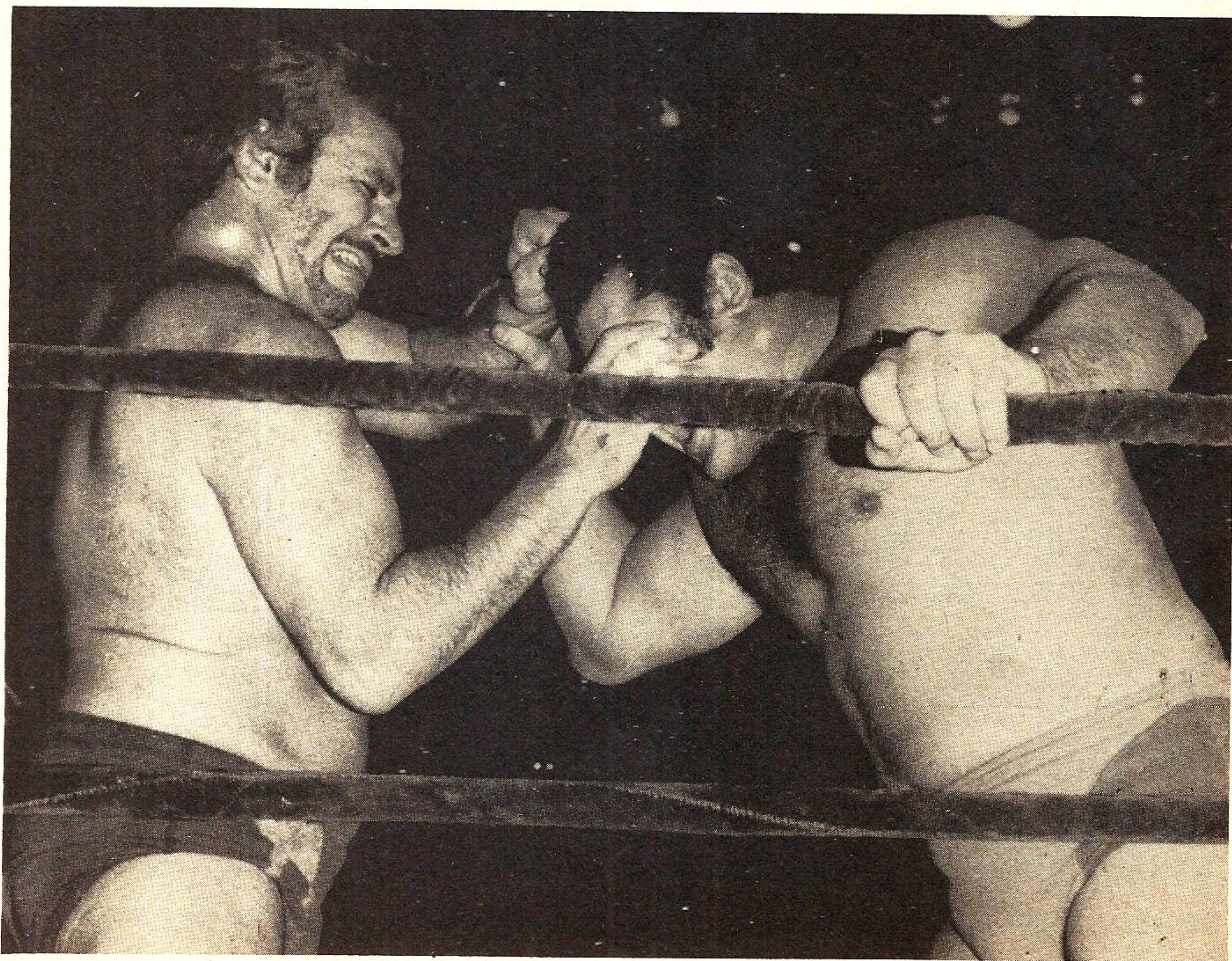
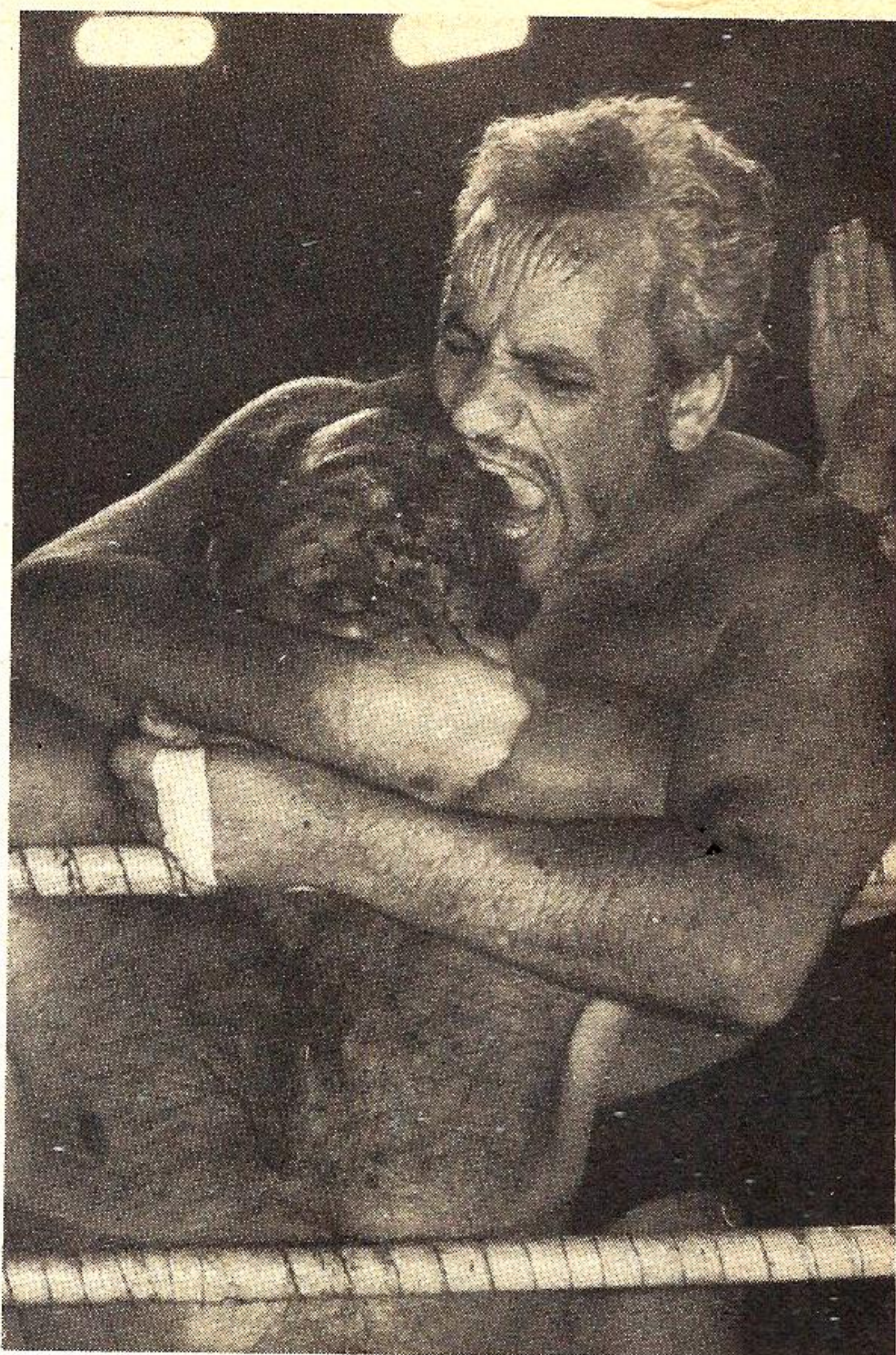
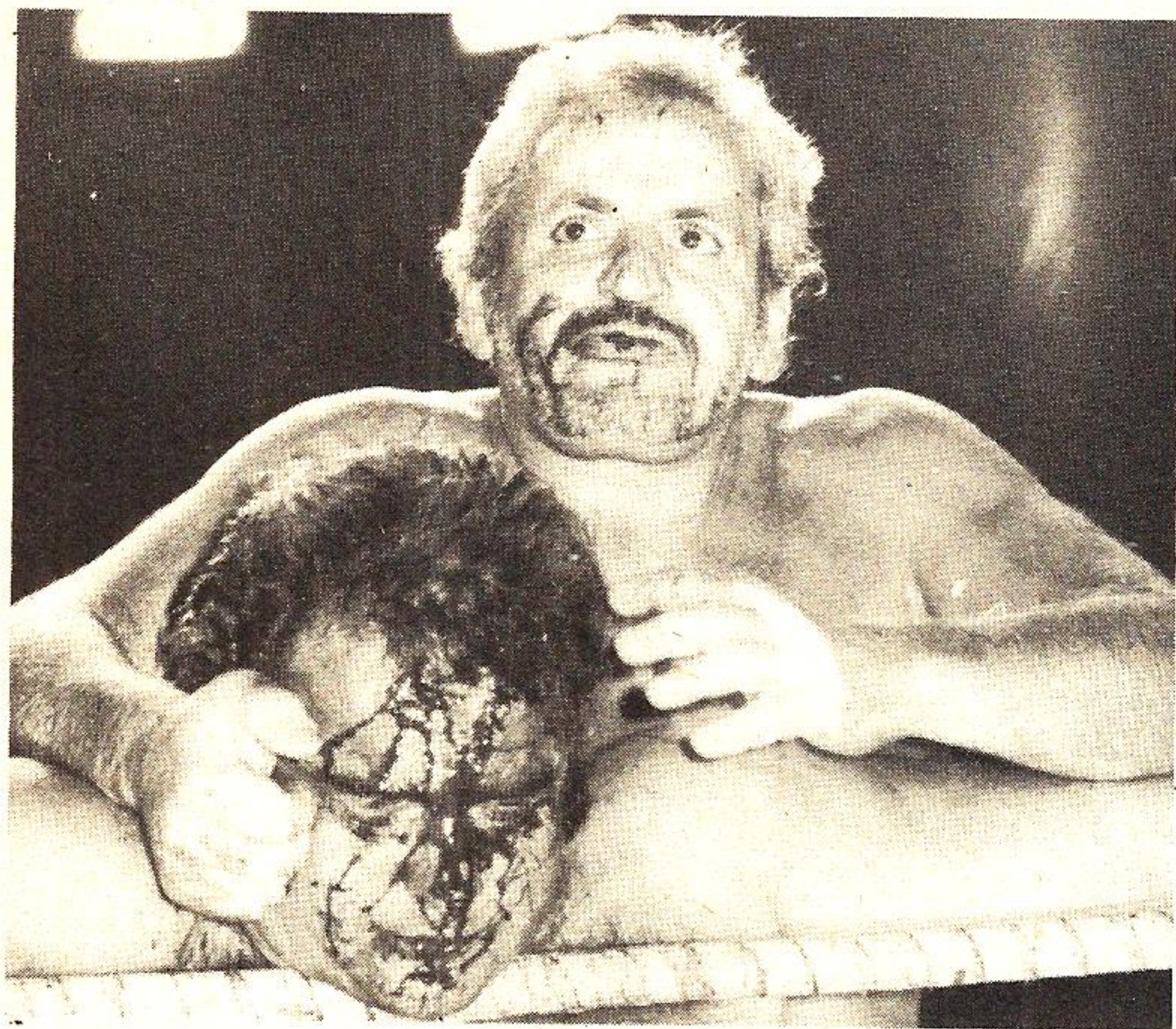
The mystique of The Sheik carries far beyond the dressing room. Nobody knows much about his private life, except perhaps Farouk who has been his confidant these many years. This is the way The Sheik wants it. He is a loner. He disdains the fraternal bond between wrestlers and cares less about the fans. He doesn't trust anyone and is never seen in public. He's either loved or hated. There is no in-between.

Farouk's presence in the comfortable room in Detroit's Cobo Arena was by design. The Sheik has never been known to grant a private interview to any one. As such, Farouk acts as his mouthpiece, because The Sheik speaks very little English, preferring to converse in Arabic. This, too, insures his privacy. If nothing else, The Sheik is proud of his Syrian heritage.

The Sheik is as colorful as he is talented. His ring garb is original. No other wrestler has anything like it. He wears an Oriental robe and a burnoose that flows down his back almost to his waist. He carries the small prayer rug with him inside the ring and unfolds it before a match while offering prayers to Allah in typical Moslem fashion.

It is believed that The Sheik is of noble

Farouk: "The Sheik gets hundreds of letters a week. Nothing complimentary, which they all should be in recognition of the Sheik's great talents. Instead, the fans want to see The Sheik get suspended and barred from the ring. Isn't that ridiculous?"



ancestry. He was born in Damascus, Syria 46 years ago. He is held in high esteem throughout the entire Middle East and is somewhat of a hero because of the success he has attained in the United States and throughout the world. His championship matches are well publicized in newspapers in all the Arab countries. In essence, he is a symbol.

Like the fabled wise men of the East, The Sheik fits the part. He has unbelievably vast financial holdings both in the United States and in some parts of the Middle East. They consist mainly of oil and real estate. Although the exact location is not known, The Sheik has a 140-acre estate somewhere in Michigan, between Detroit and Lansing. His large home, reputed to contain 24 rooms and a gymnasium, is lavishly furnished with Oriental rugs, oil paintings and a stock market ticker. That alone should indicate the number of stocks that The Sheik owns.

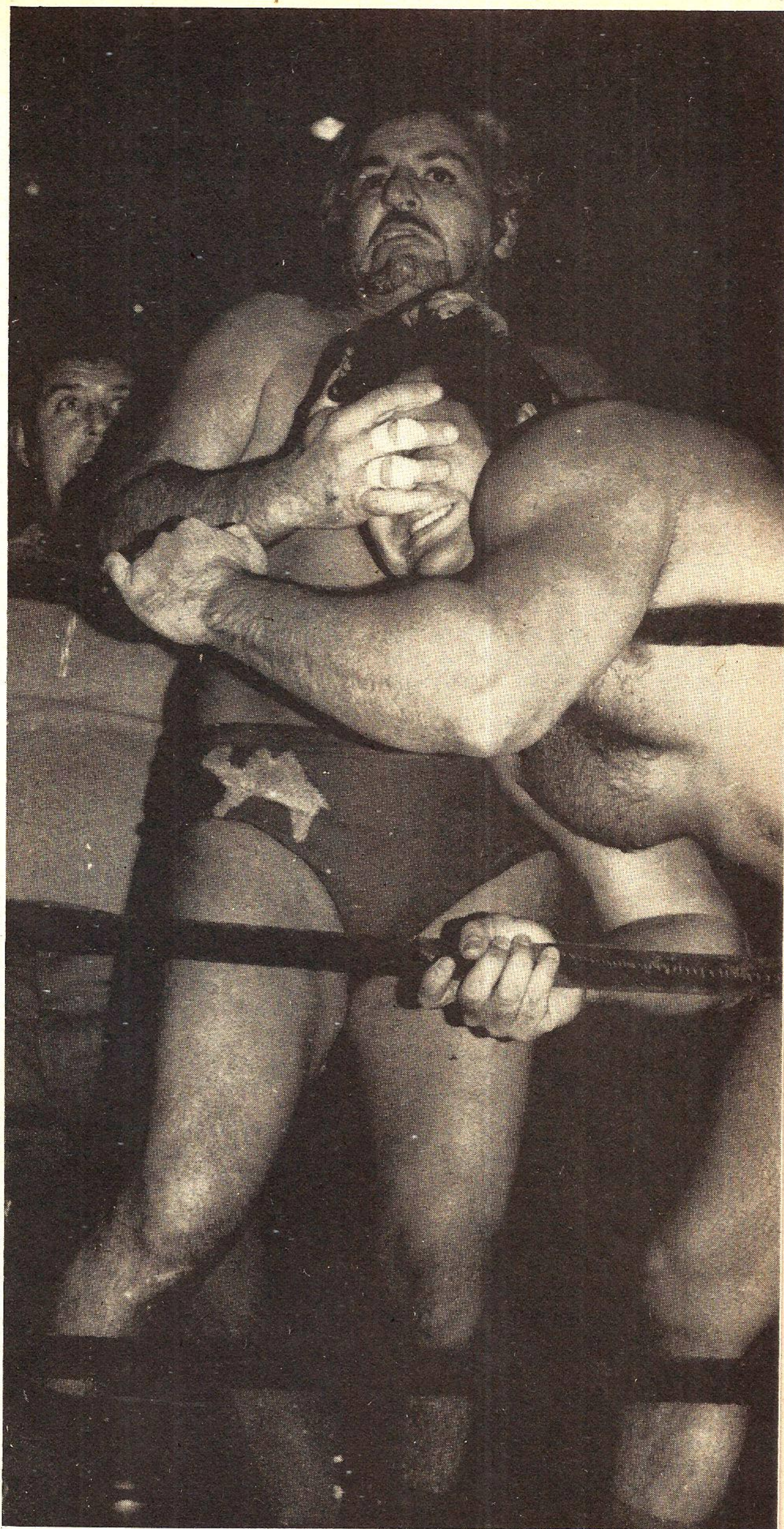
Despite his savageness in the ring, The Sheik is an impeccable dresser. All his clothes are custom made and he prides himself in that. He reportedly owns over 100 suits, 30 sports jackets, 25 pairs of slacks and 40 pairs of leather boots. Although it is generally not known, at least to the wrestling world, whenever his schedule permits The Sheik attends social functions on a diplomatic level, either in Washington, Detroit, Los Angeles or New York. He is much more sophisticated than most fans realize.

"Just because he is not liked by those idiot fans doesn't mean that he doesn't draw crowds," exclaimed Farouk. "Just look at the record. It speaks for itself. The Sheik is one of the greatest box office attractions that wrestling has ever seen. I'm not creating that fact, merely pointing it out. His fame and fortune has been established through the years by fans everywhere. They are the ones who are paying to see the great Sheik perform.

"His unpopularity is a drawing card alone. He is so hated that the fans turn out just to boo him. They are so emotional in their dislike for him that they hope to see him get hurt. Now, I ask you, who is animalistic, the fans or The Sheik? They try to paint my champion as a savage when it is the fans who are the animals, screaming and wanting to see this fantastic performer get maimed.

"I'll guarantee you one thing. As long as I am The Sheik's manager, and that will be until the sands of the desert are green with grass, he will never get hurt the way the people want to see him, carried out on a stretcher. He is too much of a champion for that to happen. And besides, his mystic powers would prevent any such occurrence. The Sheik is infallible!

"You should see the amount of mail that promoter Frances Fleser gets con-



It is believed that the Sheik is of noble ancestry.

cerning The Sheik. He gets hundreds of letters a week. Nothing complimentary, which is what they all should be, in recognition of The Sheik's great talents. Instead, the fans want to see The Sheik get suspended and barred from the ring. Isn't that ridiculous? The greatest wrestler in the business and the fans want him barred from the ring. It's a plot."

Fleser, a veteran promoter, is well aware of The Sheik's drawing power and wouldn't think twice about suspending him. Any such action would have to come from the state athletic commission and although The Sheik had appeared before them in the past, he was always cleared of any charges.

"I'll admit one thing," remarked Fleser, "as controversial as The Sheik is, I've never experienced a more professional performer than him in all my years in the business. In his own way he is an artist. He charges up an arena as soon as he enters the ring. Because the fans hate him so much, they fail to see how truly talented he is. If he wasn't so talented, he wouldn't have been champion for so long.

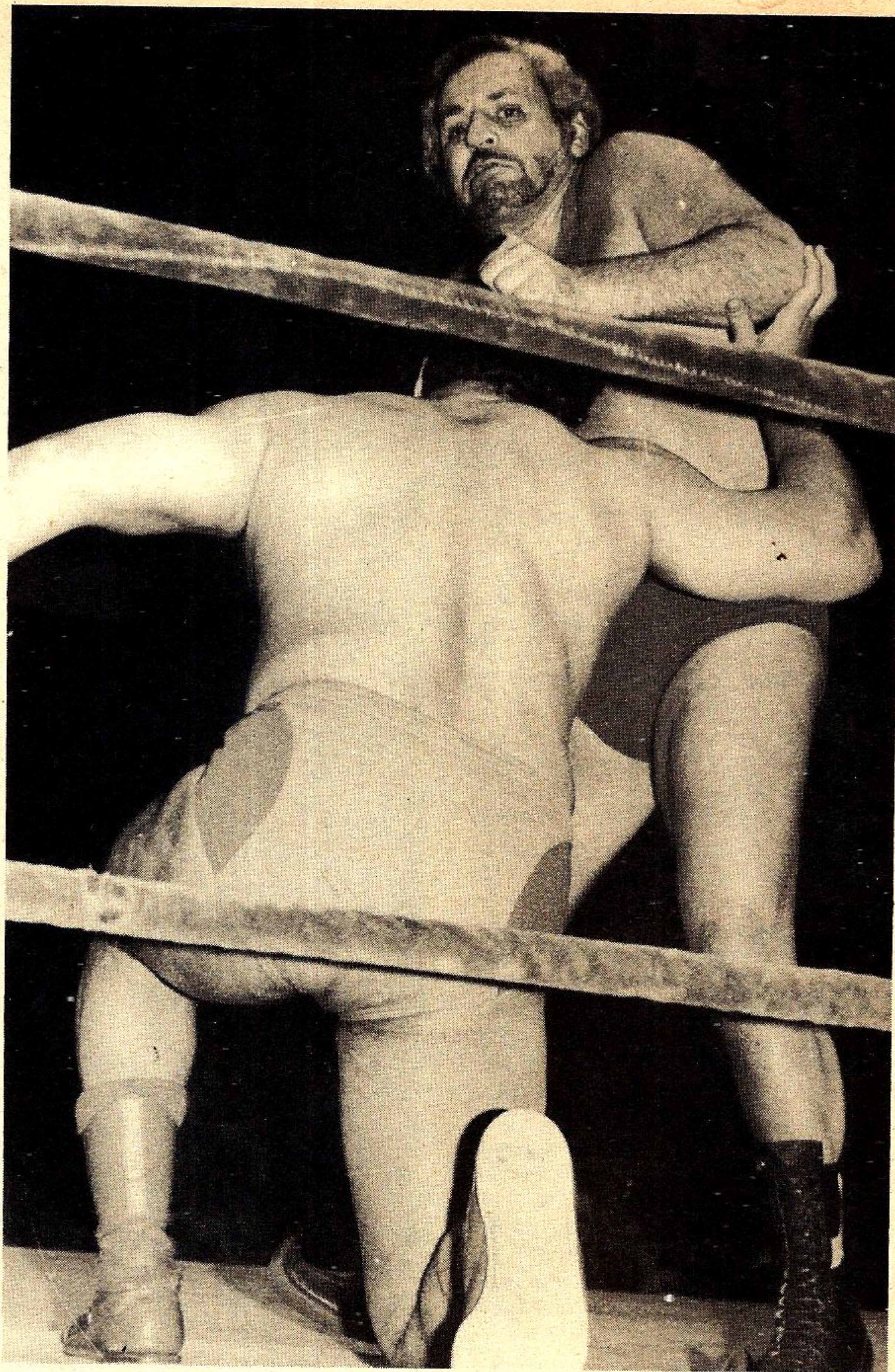
"I can understand their feelings. The Sheik is a mean, vicious performer in the ring. But, that's his style. He only wants one thing, to win. And he'll go after that victory in any manner that is presented to him. He is a wily veteran who knows what it's all about. As long as he draws the fans, I'll always use him on my shows. Box office is the name of the game. If he makes the turnstiles click, then I have no complaints."

The Sheik has been drawing more crowds than ever before. The demands from promoters have been heavy. On any given week The Sheik could be in Detroit, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Toronto. He has an open offer to appear in Japan but his heavy commitments have prevented him from confirming a date.

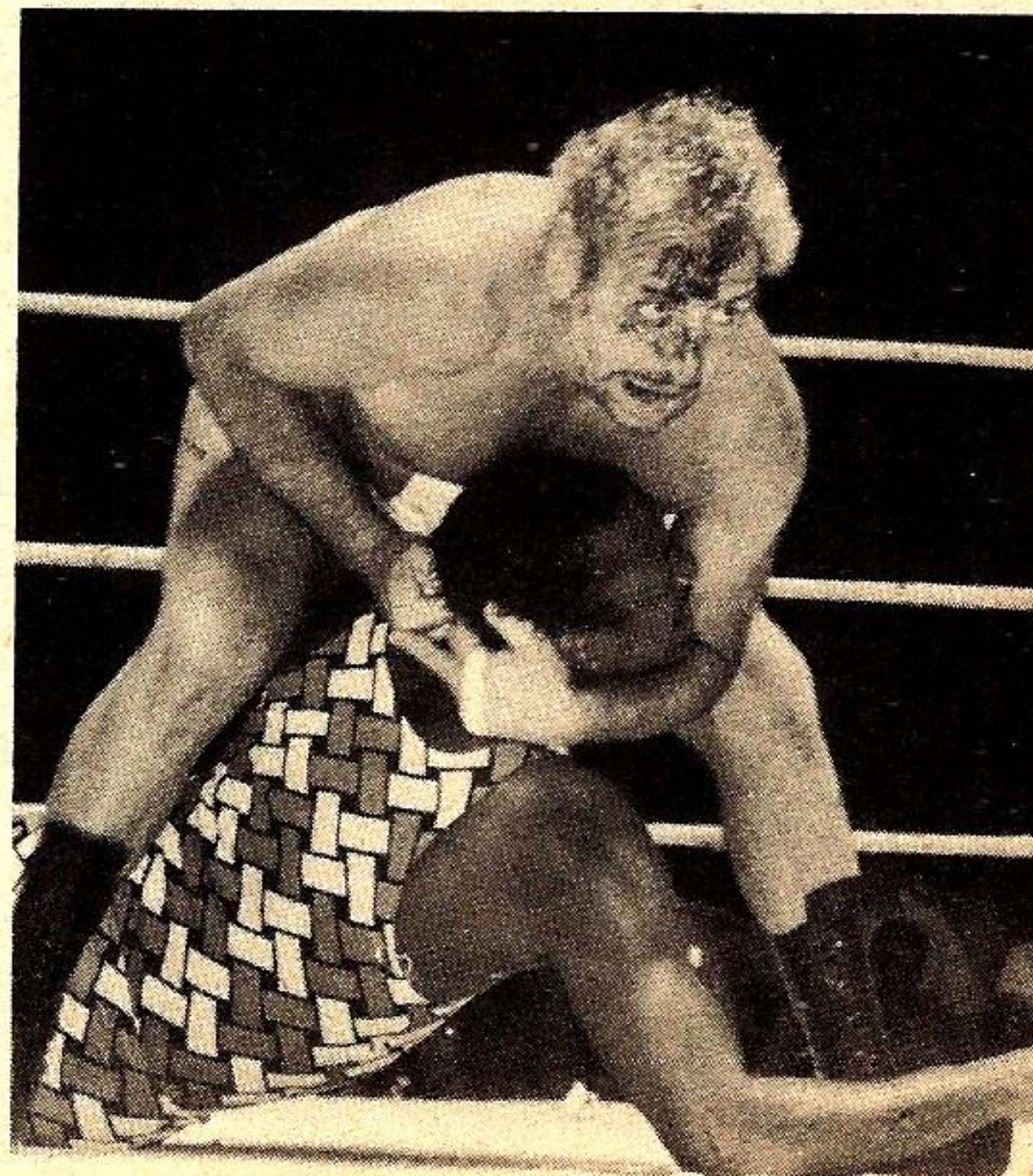
In a rare moment, The Sheik spoke something in Arabic. Farouk walked over to The Sheik and conversed privately with him. They barely spoke above a whisper. Farouk nodded at the conclusion of the talk and returned to the center of the room. He lit a Turkish cigarette and continued talking.

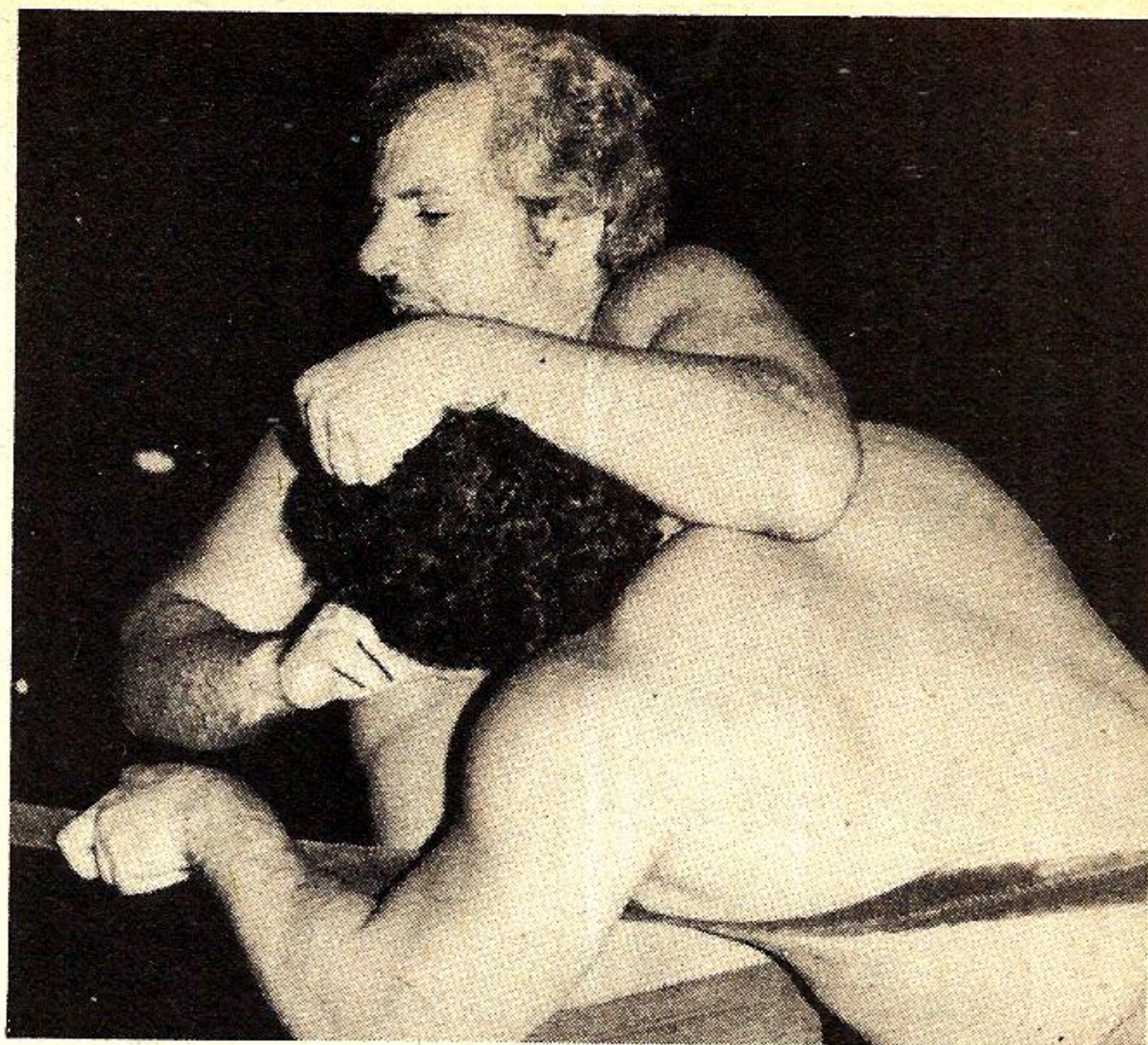
"You should feel honored that The Sheik has permitted you to enter his private domain and grant you the privilege of an interview," remarked Farouk. "As a matter of fact, interviews are something The Sheik never allows. He feels he doesn't gain anything by them. And I quite agree.

"Lots of people don't know us and don't understand us. We've been misquoted so often. Who needs people to know about us anyway? The Sheik only wants to be known by his accomplishments in the ring. That is where his honor and pride are at stake. As far as we are concerned, there are only two persons and the entire universe re-

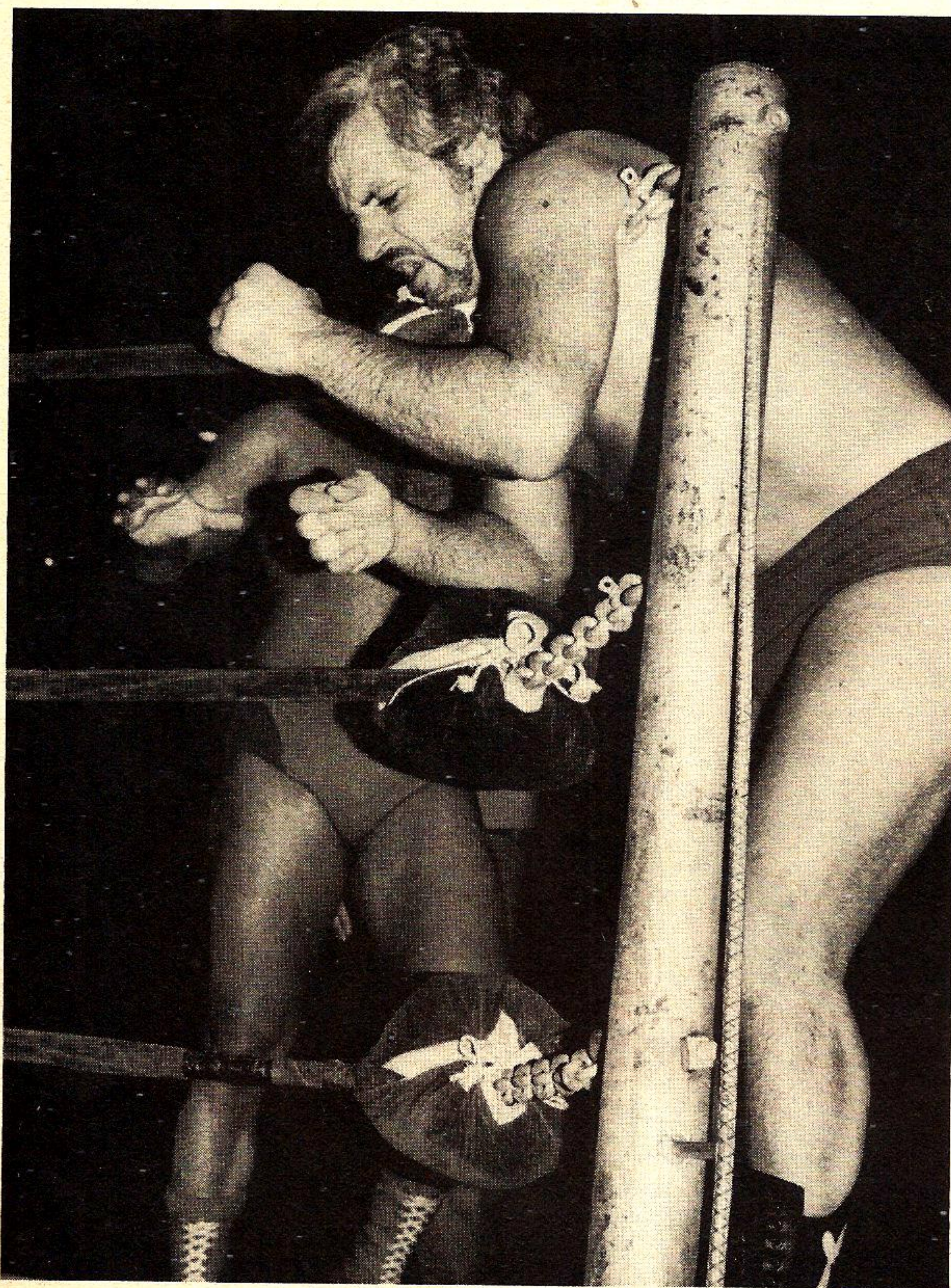


Like the fabled wise men of the East, the Sheik fits the part. He has unbelievably vast financial holdings in both the United States and the Middle East.





Nobody knows much about The Sheik's private life except Farouk, who has been his confidant for many years. This is the way The Sheik prefers it. He is a loner.



Farouk: "The Sheik is one of the greatest box office attractions that wrestling has ever seen."

volves around us, The Sheik and Abdullah Farouk. When you get down to it, who else is there but the greatest wrestler and the greatest manager?

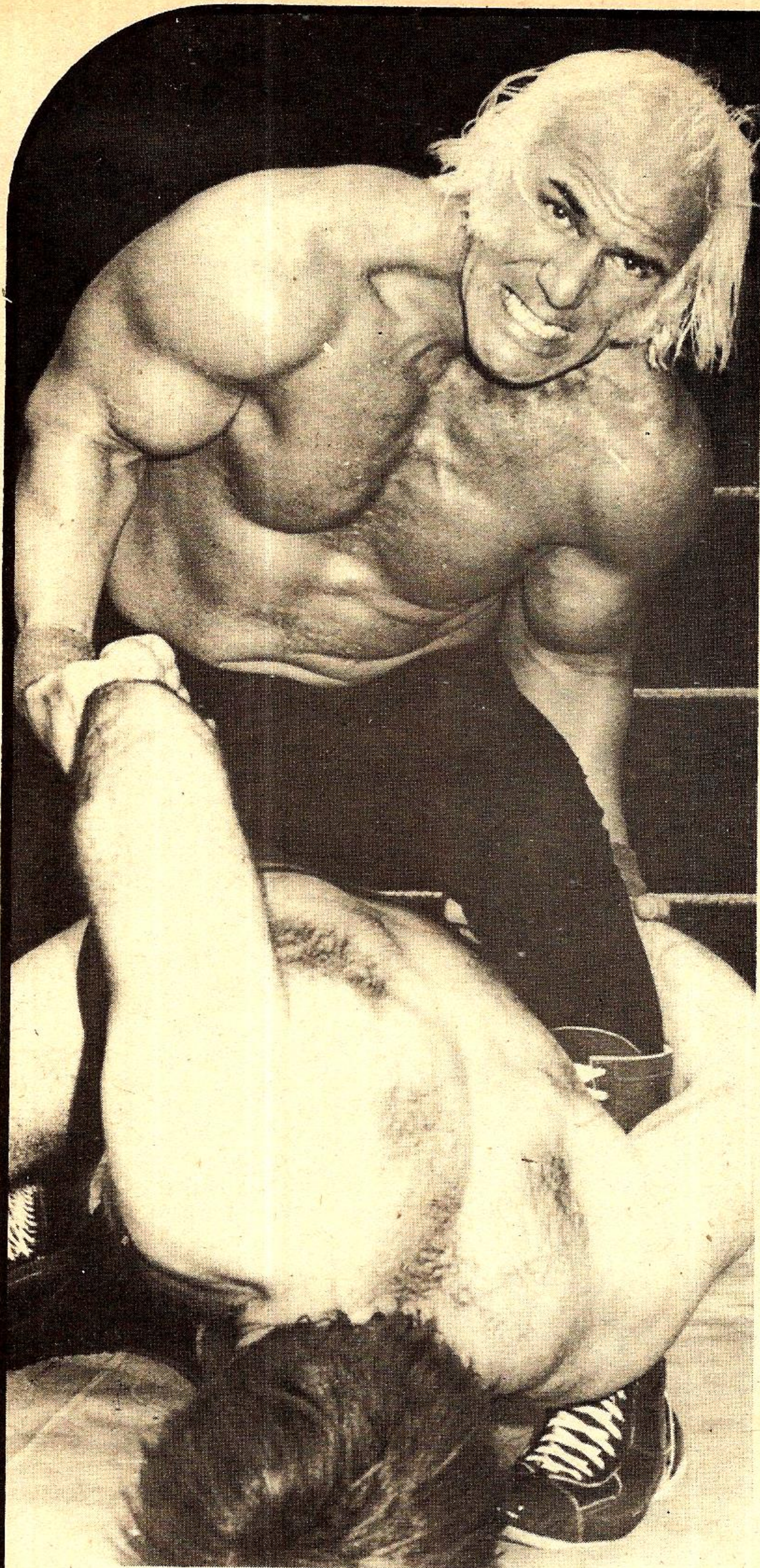
"The Sheik is a rare individual. He is a person of great culture. You may wonder why he is a wrestler in the first place? You may not believe it, but The Sheik actually wrestles to amuse himself. As far as he's concerned, it is merely great exercise, matching his skill against his opponents. You heard about the man who has everything. Well, wrestling is a diversion for someone like The Sheik who truly has everything.

"Although he constantly draws huge crowds wherever he goes, The Sheik is beginning to feel that there isn't much joy in wrestling anymore. He's starting to find it boring. It's understandable. Consider the fact that he has beaten each and every opponent time and time again. It has taken a great deal out of the pleasure of winning time after time for him.

"Now, you must excuse us. The Sheik would like you to leave so that he may be able to spend the rest of the time before his match in meditation. He feels very deeply about the powers of thought. People refuse to believe that he possesses mystifying occult powers. But it is the truth. Wrestling will never see anyone as great as The Sheik, now or in the future. He is the rarest of individuals, a once in a lifetime performer."

Almost an hour later, the door to The Sheik's private room opened. Farouk emerged first, followed by The Sheik. They walked straight ahead, down the corridor toward the door that opened to a passage way that led to the arena floor. Farouk held both hands high as he appeared to quell the booing throughout the arena. The Sheik's presence before the huge throng brought a greater roar.

They had paid their way to boo The Sheik. And, what's more, you couldn't buy a ticket. Cobo was sold out . . .



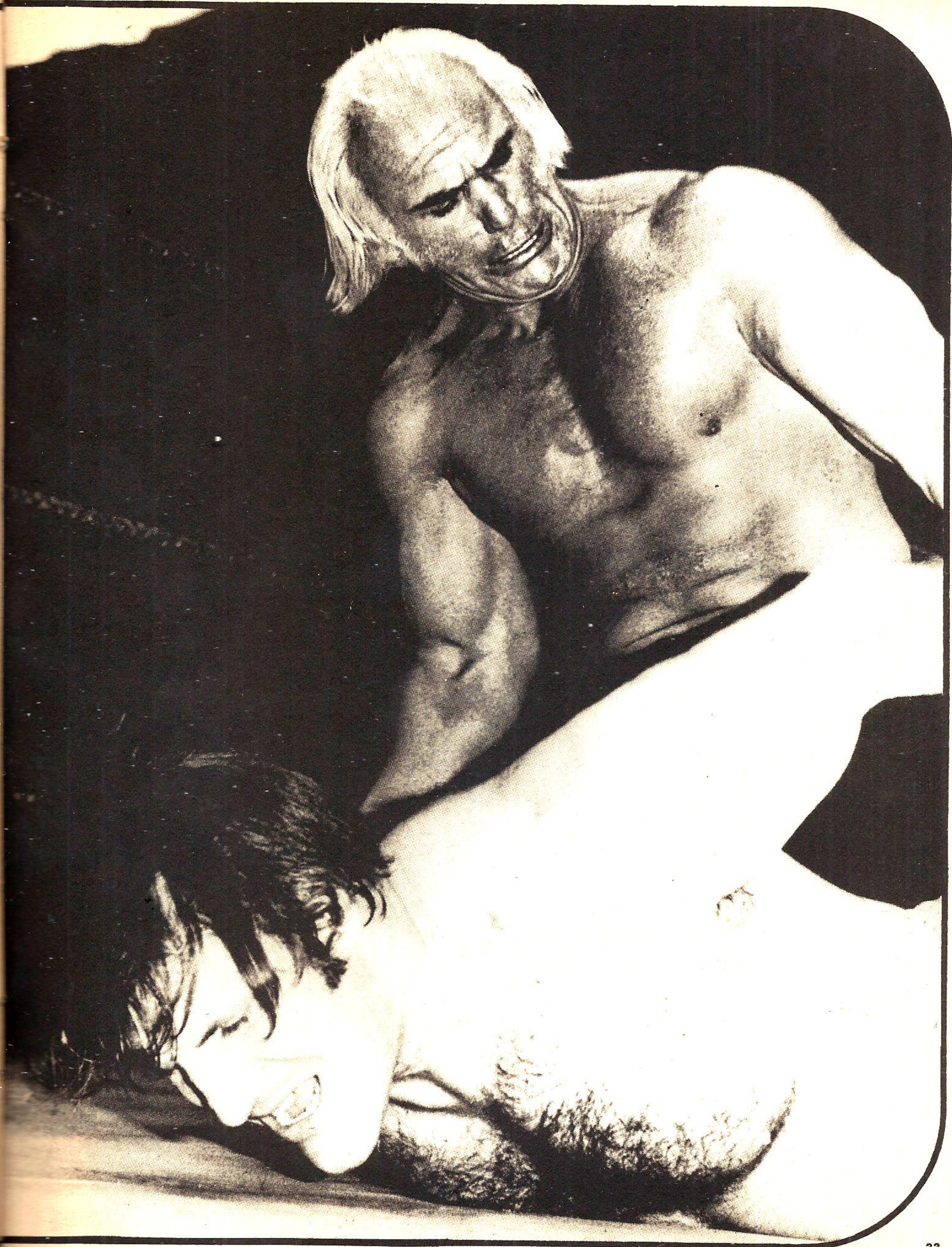
“I’m The Uncrowned Champion,” Insists Superstar Graham

BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

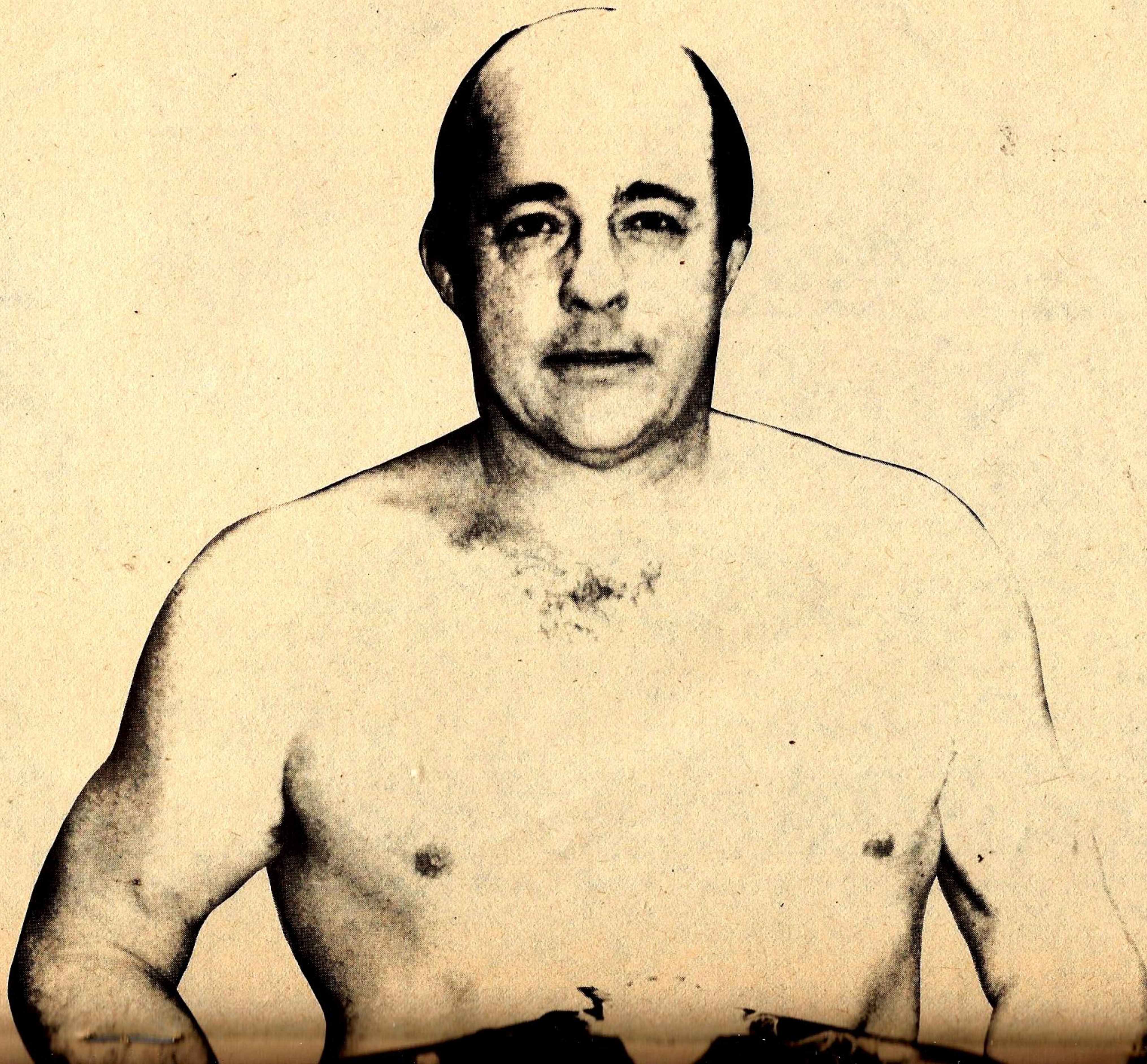
Graham feels he lost the world’s championship on a fluke, hometown decision. And, there are many who agree with him! In any event, he’ll get another chance.

I’m simply the uncrowned heavyweight champion of the world,” superstar Billy Graham lamented in the quiet confines of P.J. Clark’s after his unfavorable decision against Bruno Sammartino in Madison Square Garden. “I was literally robbed right here in the Big Apple, Jack! What a shame! 26,000 people turned out in zero degree weather to witness the crowning of the Superstar, but all they were able to see was a fluke home-town decision. What does a guy have to do to get ahead in this town?”

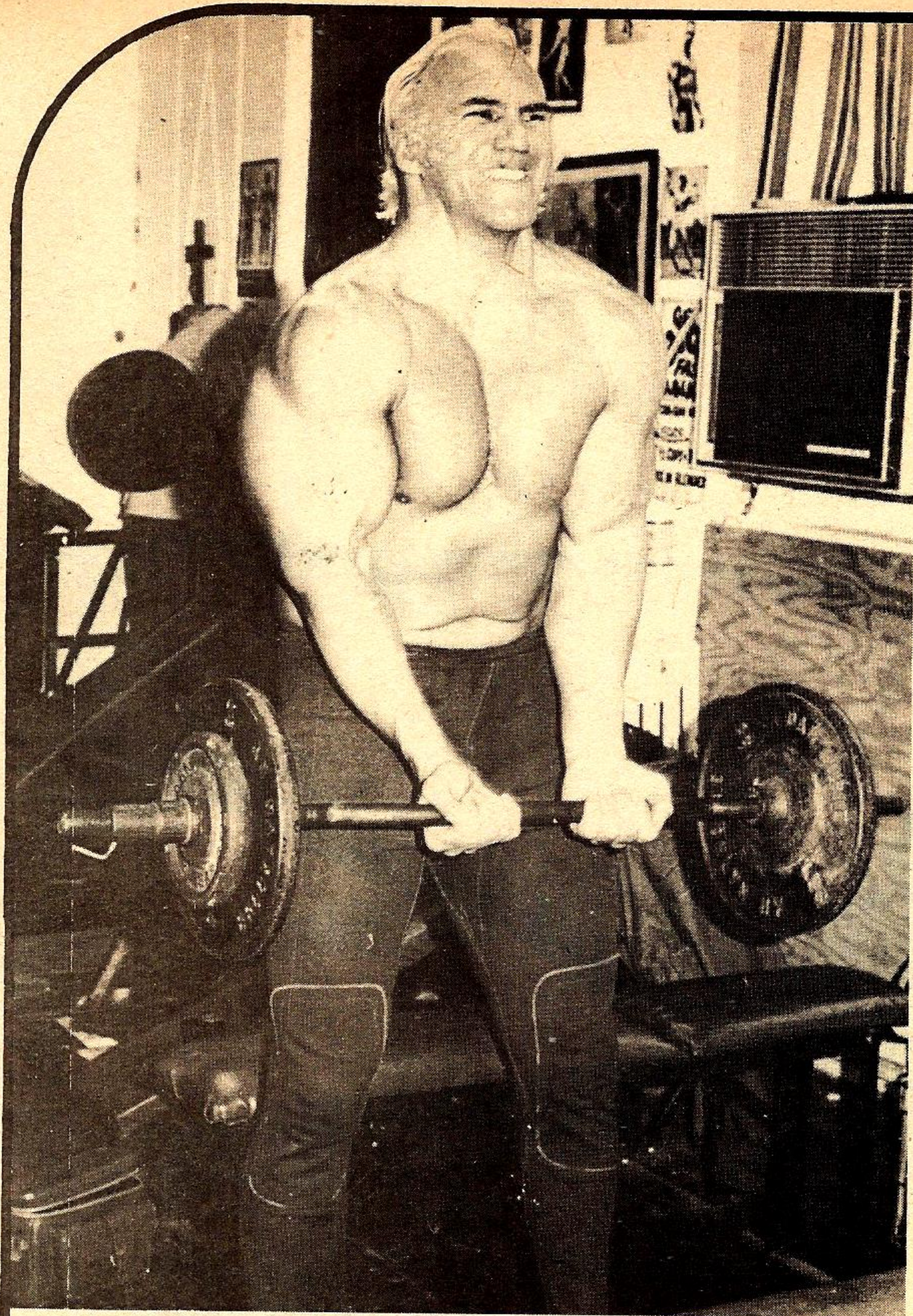
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POPULAR PIN-UP VERNE GAGNE







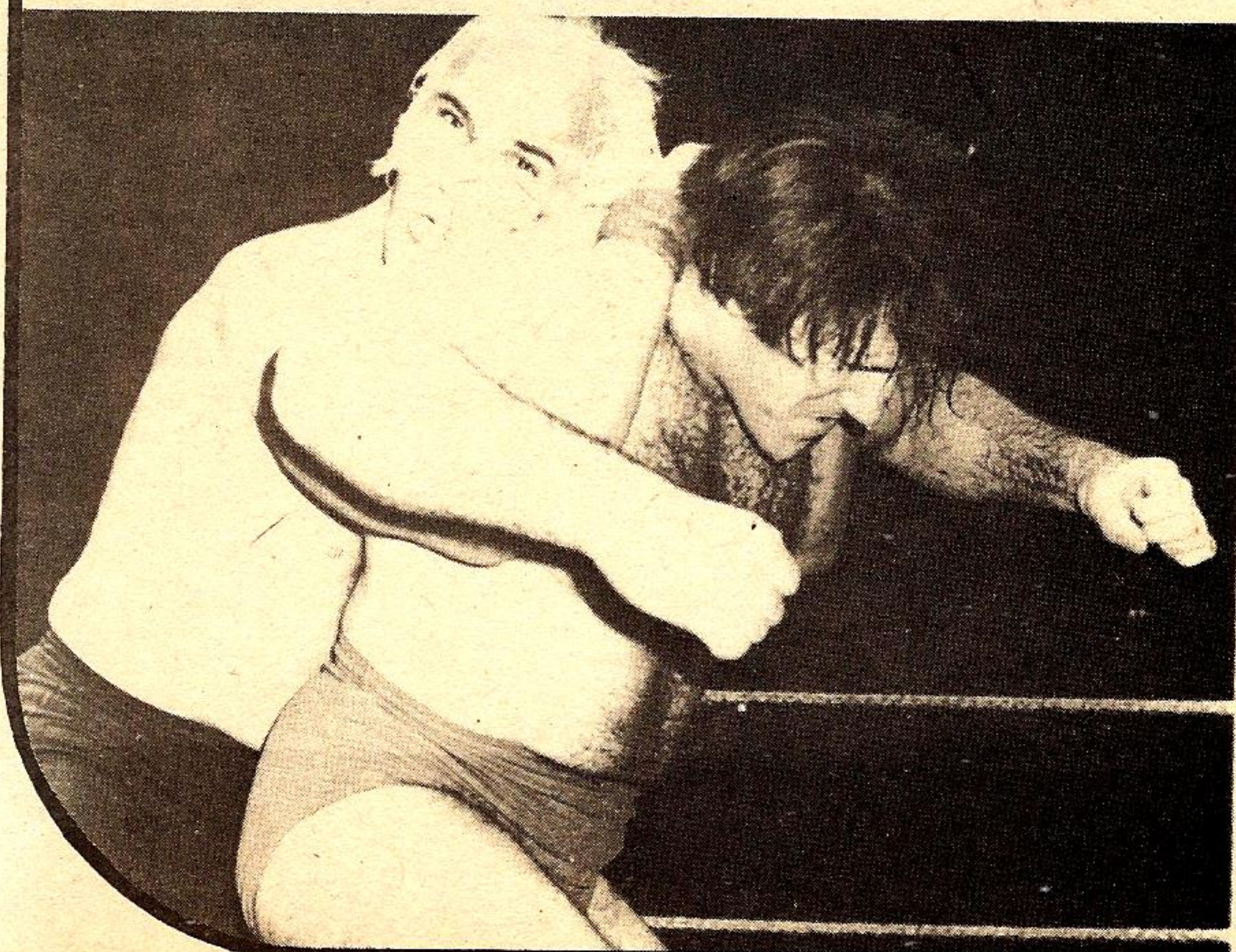
"I had this place reserved for my victory celebration before the referee stepped in and ruined my festive celebration. All the heavies were invited and if you stay around long enough you'll get to see Micheal Caine, Sean Connery, Richard Burton and probably Liz too! They're all fans of mine and I set them up with ring-side seats to witness my crowning. I know that they'll be here to congratulate me on my match and to offer their condolences for the rotten officiating job which the referee did. You know, I only had a slight scratch and the referee stopped the match! Imagine that—26,000 people came to see me on such a rotten night and they have to put up with that same old New York City nonsense. The real sad part about it is that this is the second time that I've been robbed in New York.

"In our first match at the Garden, the referee only counted to ten and then gave me the decision. But if he would have given his paisano the full count I would have cremated him right in the center of the ring once he returned. But what's the use of crying over spilled milk, I'll get even with him soon enough! I know it, you know it, my millions of admirers know it and even Bruno Sammartino knows it! It's only a matter of time, Jack, before I win that belt and become the W.W.W.F. champion."

Little by little, people began to flock into the beautiful P.J. Clark's and Sean Connery and Michael Caine were indeed among the many in attendance. However, Richard Burton and Liz never appeared. When the Superstar was asked about this he broke into a big grin and replied, "I guess he's just too busy studying his lines for *Equus*!"

It was quite close to 4 o'clock in the morning when the guests started to leave but the Superstar continued talking well into the night about his past, present and future. "You know, Jack, I don't need that belt to prove that I'm the greatest in the sport. Who's bigger than me? Who's more masculine than me? There's no one, Jack, that fits the picture. With my 23-inch arms, 56-inch chest, 30-inch thighs, 19½-inch calves and 32-inch waist, there's no one that can come close to matching my awesome physical dimensions. This is my calling card to success.

"I make it my business to work out every day for four hours to keep my body in such perfect condition. I have a set



Upper left: Graham works out in a Brooklyn gym for his championship match. Lower left: The Superstar applies a Full Nelson to the champ, Bruno Sammartino.

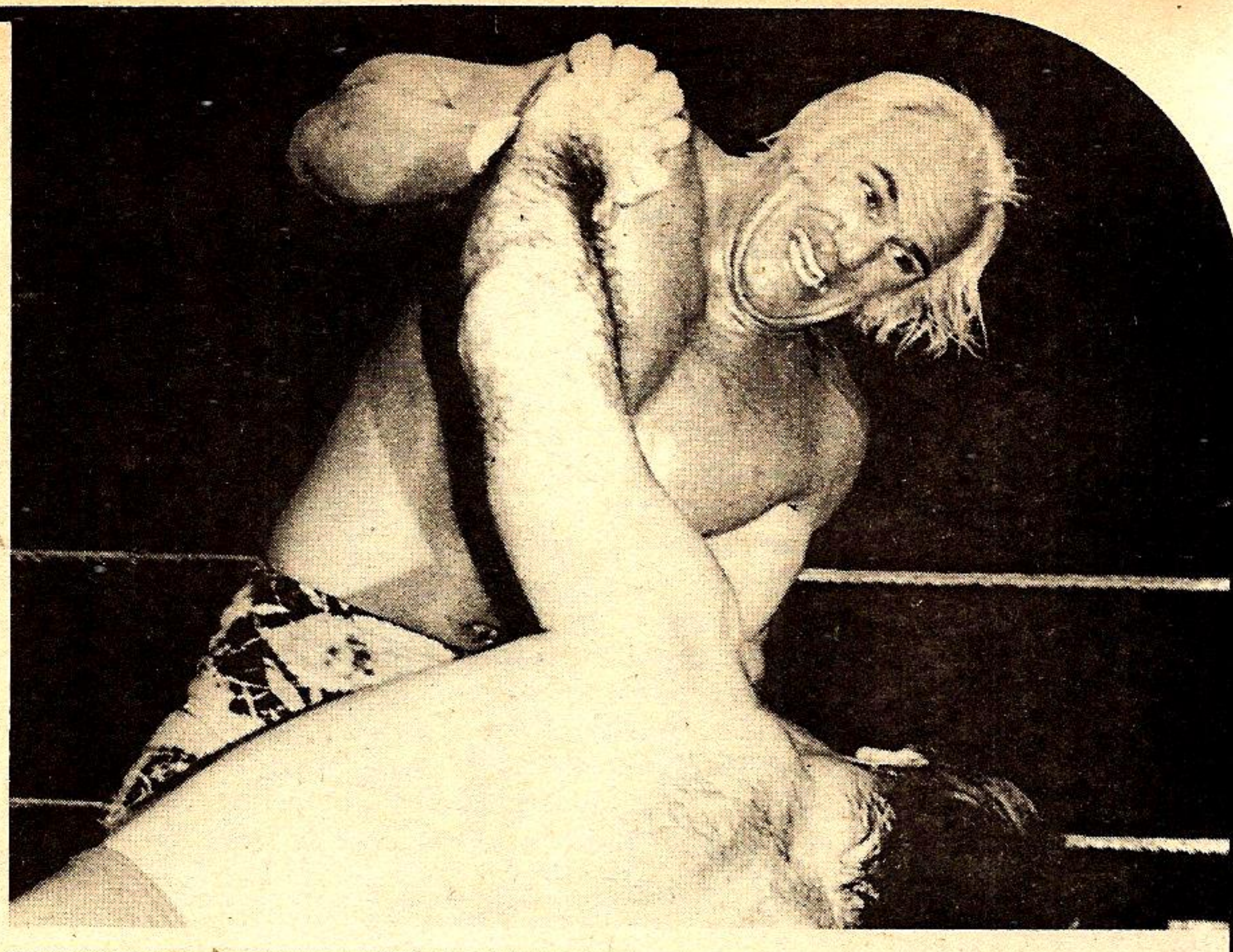
routine that I follow to the letter and I feel that by following this religiously, it will eventually lead me to the professional Mr. Universe title in London, England next year. The past year, as most people are aware, I captured the title of "Most Muscular Arms" in the W.B.B.G. Mr. America contest, and I feel if I would have been in the condition I am now, I would have won the whole thing. My goal is to first win this W.W.W.F. title and then go to London to capture the Mr. Universe contest. I know that by the time you read this I should be halfway to my goal."

In the past, the Superstar has always boasted to be the "Arm Wrestling Champion of the World". He has in fact defeated quite a few top wrestlers who have challenged him over the years in arm wrestling competition. Men such as Ken Patera, Tex McKenzie, Jose Lothario and Andre the Giant have all fallen to the Superstar by one means or another in this type of a match. Graham has now gone out and challenged some of the big men in the W.W.W.F. area to try their luck against him in arm wrestling competition.

"The man I want most is Bruno Sammartino, Graham said. "I always heard that he was supposed to be a very good arm wrestler but if his wrestling ability is any indication, he has to be atrocious in arm wrestling. But I just want him to prove that I am the best. In fact I've offered to put up \$25,000 in cold cash to back up my claim. If Bruno thinks he can take me, just let him match my money offer and we'll have a match.

"I know that there will be so many people who would want to see this that it will have to be shown everywhere throughout the world on closed circuit T.V. to accomodate all my millions of fans. In fact, I've also been contacted by every major network trying to purchase the rights to this extravaganza but the only thing holding up the whole works is Bruno Sammartino's name on the contract. Once he puts his John Hancock on that dotted line, I'll be a few million dollars richer.

"Besides Bruno, another guy I would love to face is that beer-bellied Putski. He's supposed to be strong but that has to be the biggest joke I have ever heard. He has no talent, no power, only a big Polish beer barrel belly. How can he possibly compete with the great Superstar? There's no way at all. If you



Upper right: Graham has the upper hand in this test of strength. Lower right: Bruno is feeling the effects of the Superstar Bearhug.

try thinking about it, I bet you couldn't think of one person in this sport that could come close to putting my arm down. Do you know why this is so? I'll tell you, Jack! It's because there's no one around with the awesome strength, superb physique and magnificent body that I possess."

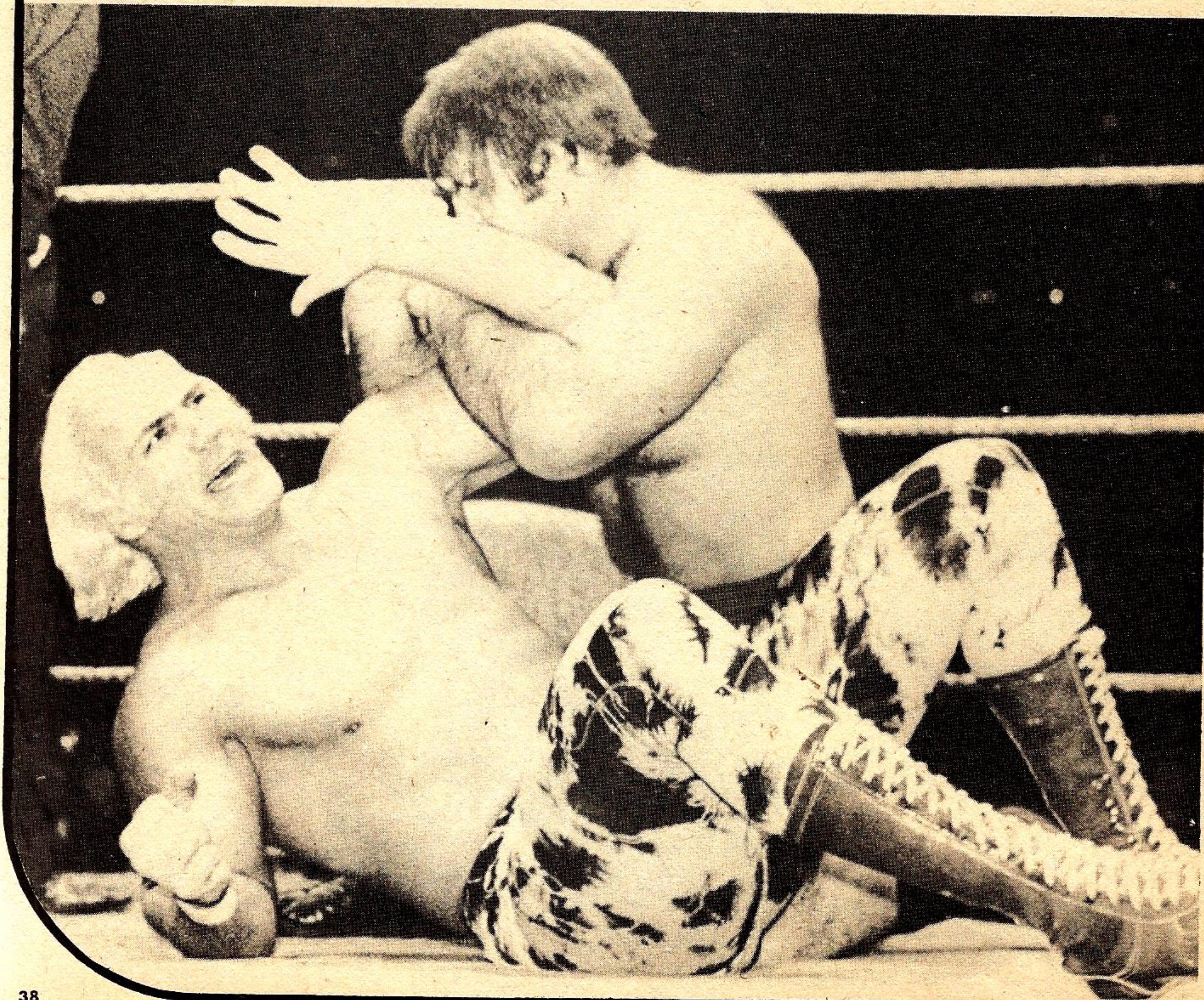
What surprises most people when they see Graham in action is that the Superstar, besides having a tremendous amount of strength, also possesses a remarkable knowledge of wrestling holds and techniques. It is this knowledge that has helped him overcome quite a few good wrestlers in the sport.

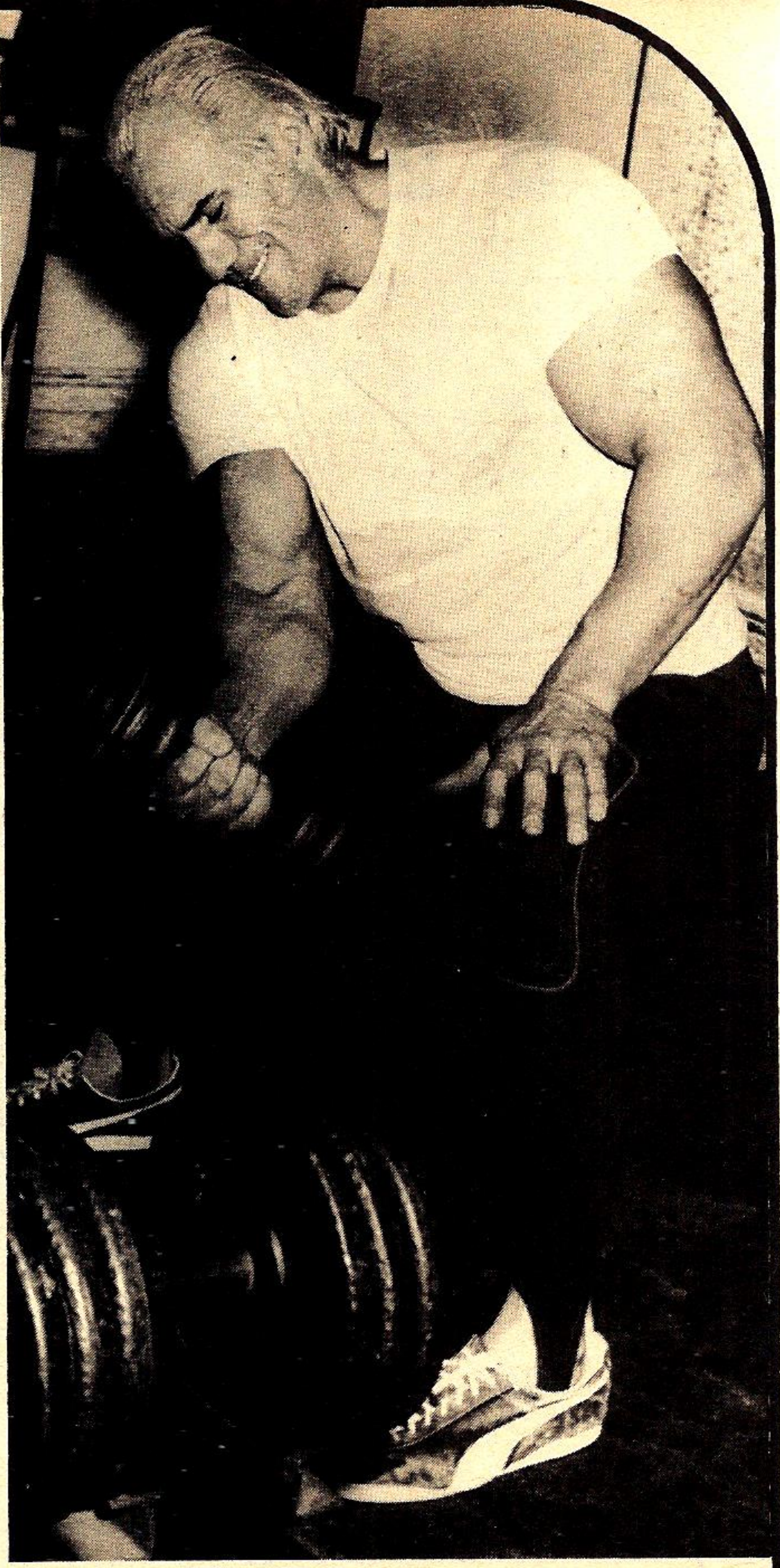
In any one match Graham always manages to come up with a new surprise move that completely baffles his opponent and knocks him right off the ground. This is what helps make Graham such a

very hard wrestler to face. Just when his opponent thinks he has him figured out, the Superstar changes his tactics and style, leaving his opponent bewildered, baffled and confused.

Says Graham, "Brother, I got all my stuff together. I can do it all! As far as strength goes I can rip a bumper off a Mack truck and when it comes to wrestling finesse, there's no better than me. That's why I predict that I will be the new W.W.W.F. champion within a very short period of time. There is no one in the sport that can do it all and do it as good as me. The poor people around these parts have suffered long enough with the mediocre reign of Bruno Sammartino but now they can rejoice, for soon they will be treated to the magnificent supremacy of the Superstar Billy Graham, as their new champion."

Bruno Sammartino applies an armlock on the Superstar. Graham wants to meet Sammartino in an arm-wrestling contest to prove his claim that he is the "Arm Wrestling Champion of the World".





Above: The Superstar predicts he will soon be the next W.W.W.F. champion and says: "The poor people around these parts have suffered long enough with the mediocre reign of Bruno Sammartino." Left: Graham meets with his manager The Wizard.

"THE BLOOD



SPILLING MUST STOP!"

Demands Haystacks Calhoun

BY FRANK AMATO

Calhoun: "These past few years I've seen more blood spilled than in my first 10 years in wrestling. Is this needed in the sport? Where is the sportsmanship in blood?"

The blood was streaming down his face. He was lying on his back, on the concrete floor outside the ring. The SRO crowd at Madison Square Garden had stopped yelling words of encouragement. It was just too late. Haystacks Calhoun could not make it back to his feet and get back inside the ring to beat the count. Ernie Ladd was inside the ring laughing in jubilation over his victory.

After about five minutes, Haystacks Calhoun did make it back to his feet. The fans cheered anyway. They love the popular Haystacks and they were showing him their support. Normally, Haystacks would wave to his giant throng of fans. The fans he calls his 'Neighbors'. Not this time. He was oblivious to the cheers. The pain was too great. Haystacks walked back to his dressing room where the doctor was waiting to check him.

Haystacks Calhoun entered the dressing room followed by the doctor. The repor-

ters and photographers were detained by the Garden guards. Some twenty minutes later the doctor emerged and gave word that Haystacks would grant an interview after he showered and dressed. Ten minutes later, true to his word, Haystacks Calhoun had the reporters and photographers ushered into the dressing room. He was dressed and sitting on a large table. A bandage had been placed high on his forehead.

Haystacks waved and smiled that friendly smile for which he is so noted. "Find a seat gentlemen. What can I do for you? You saw the bout. You saw what happened."

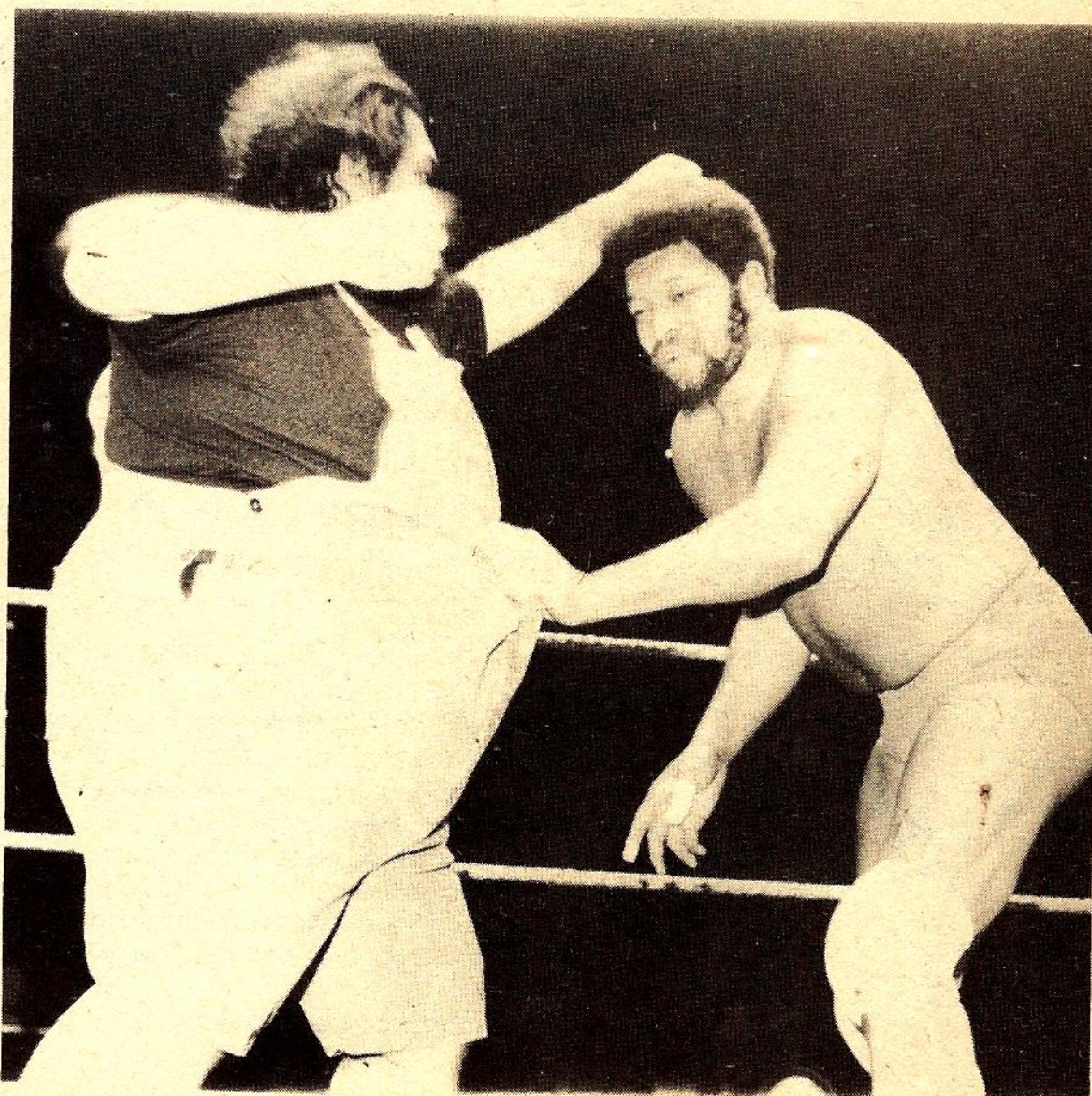
Yes, the members of the press did see what had happened. They saw a thrilling contest between Haystacks and Ernie Ladd. They saw exciting action from the opening bell. They saw early attempts by Ladd thwarted by Calhoun. Then Ernie Ladd opened up with his ruthless brand of tactics. They saw Ladd use his taped thumb to open a deep cut on the forehead of Calhoun. Time and time again Ladd thrust the taped thumb drawing more and more blood.

Calhoun tried to fight back but the attack was taking its toll. The referee kept checking the blood but allowed the match to continue. Ladd stepped up the attack. Now Calhoun was reeling, hurt and sagging by the ropes. Ernie Ladd stood across the ring opposite Calhoun. Then Ladd took up a position that he had



Ladd used his taped thumb to open a cut on Haystack's forehead. Haystacks: "That taped thumb is no more injured than my big toe."

Haystacks displays his lucky horseshoe prior to a match.



Calhoun tried to fight back but the attack was taking its toll. Ladd stepped up the attack, charged Calhoun and the match was over.

done hundreds of times in his pro football days—his famous defensive tackle position. Then Ladd charged Calhoun and the collision sent Calhoun toppling through the ropes onto the concrete floor. The match was over.

The taped thumb of Ernie Ladd was mentioned by the press. Calhoun agreed. "You know, gentlemen, that that taped thumb is dangerous. I don't care what that Ladd claims about having that thumb taped. That thumb is no more injured than my big toe. The match was darn close until Ladd used the taped thumb. You know he wanted me to bleed. I think that was his intention from the beginning. There could be many reasons but I know one thing. This blood in matches must stop! Why should another wrestler want to make his opponent bleed? Wrestling is a sport pitting two athletes in a contest. Where is the sportsmanship in blood? It must stop!"

The members of the press exchanged glances. The normally quiet Haystacks Calhoun was now dead serious and his voice was unusually loud. Calhoun continued, "These past few years I've seen more blood spilled than in my first ten years in wrestling. I don't think that I've been on a card without seeing a wrestler's blood being spilled. I have seen chairs, metal pipes, chains, brass knuckles, taped weapons, loaded boots, fire and other things used by unscrupulous wrestlers. Is this needed in wrestling?"

Calhoun was mad now. His audience was giving their undivided attention. Calhoun went on, "I'll just give some of my own experiences these past few years to make my point. Take my match with Cowboy Bob Duncum right here at the Garden some months ago. Soon as the bell sounded Duncum attacked me. I know he used a weapon of some kind. Before you knew it I was bleeding. Darn it, I wanted to continue but the referee stopped the match. Now Duncum is a top wrestler. Did he need this weapon against me? I'm sure he didn't."

Then Calhoun brought up The Valiant Brothers. Haystacks said, "These Valiants are a good tag team. I admit it. But they use any means to win and this includes brass knuckles. Once again it was at the Garden and Jimmy Valiant hit me with this weapon. I was knocked nearly unconscious. Naturally my head was bleeding. Then Valiant started to bite open the cut. Where is the sportsmanship there?"

Calhoun brought up another incident concerning Jimmy and Johnny Valiant. "It was in Philadelphia and I was teaming with young Larry Zbyszko. The Valiants weren't doing that well against us when their manager Lou Albano stole my lucky horseshoe. He handed it to Jimmy Valiant and next thing I knew Val-

iant was pounding my head with it until I was bloody and unable to continue."

Haystacks Calhoun stopped to drink a glass of water. He mentioned Killer Kowalski. He said, "I believe it was in Maine that I wrestled him. Kowalski was wearing this mask. Now you know about those stories of a hidden weapon he places in that mask. Well gentlemen, let me state right here I know for a fact he uses a damn weapon. He used it on me. I've wrestled Kowalski many times in the past without his using that mask. Kowalski doesn't have a hard head like Bobo Brazil. No sir. Well with this foreign weapon inside that mask Kowalski skullbutted me until I bled and knocked me clean outside the ring. You know that

Kowalski is a highly rated wrestler and one of the best and toughest. He doesn't need a mask. Now when someone of Kowalski's stature starts using a gimmick such as a loaded mask then things are rotten."

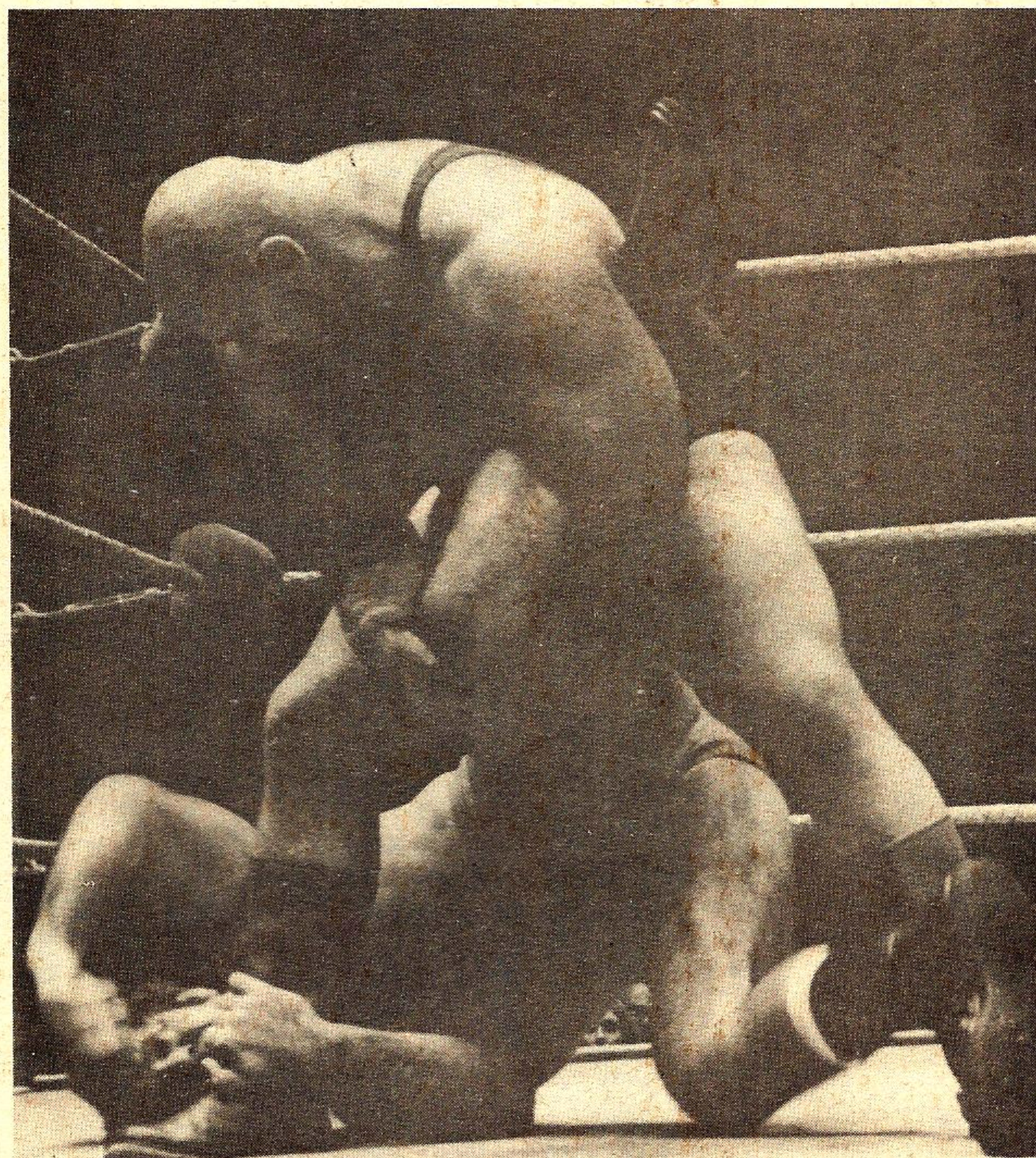
One reporter asked Calhoun if he had ever used a weapon. Calhoun replied, "Sure I have, but only in self defense. I used my lucky horseshoe. Listen guys, I'm not a plaster saint. I'm not placing myself on any pedestal. I'll fight fire with fire. If a wrestler decides he's going to use a weapon then give me the same weapon. Or at least a weapon to defend myself. That may sound barbaric but wrestling is turning into a barbarian sport. I hate saying it but look around



Calhoun: "Listen, guys, I'm not a plaster saint. I'm not placing myself on any pedestal. I'll fight fire with fire."



Calhoun: "You can't pick up a wrestling magazine without seeing a bloody wrestler. It wasn't like this when I started wrestling 20 years ago."



you. You can't pick up a wrestling magazine without seeing a bloody wrestler. It wasn't like this when I first started wrestling over twenty years ago. Sure there was blood spilled then but not like it is now."

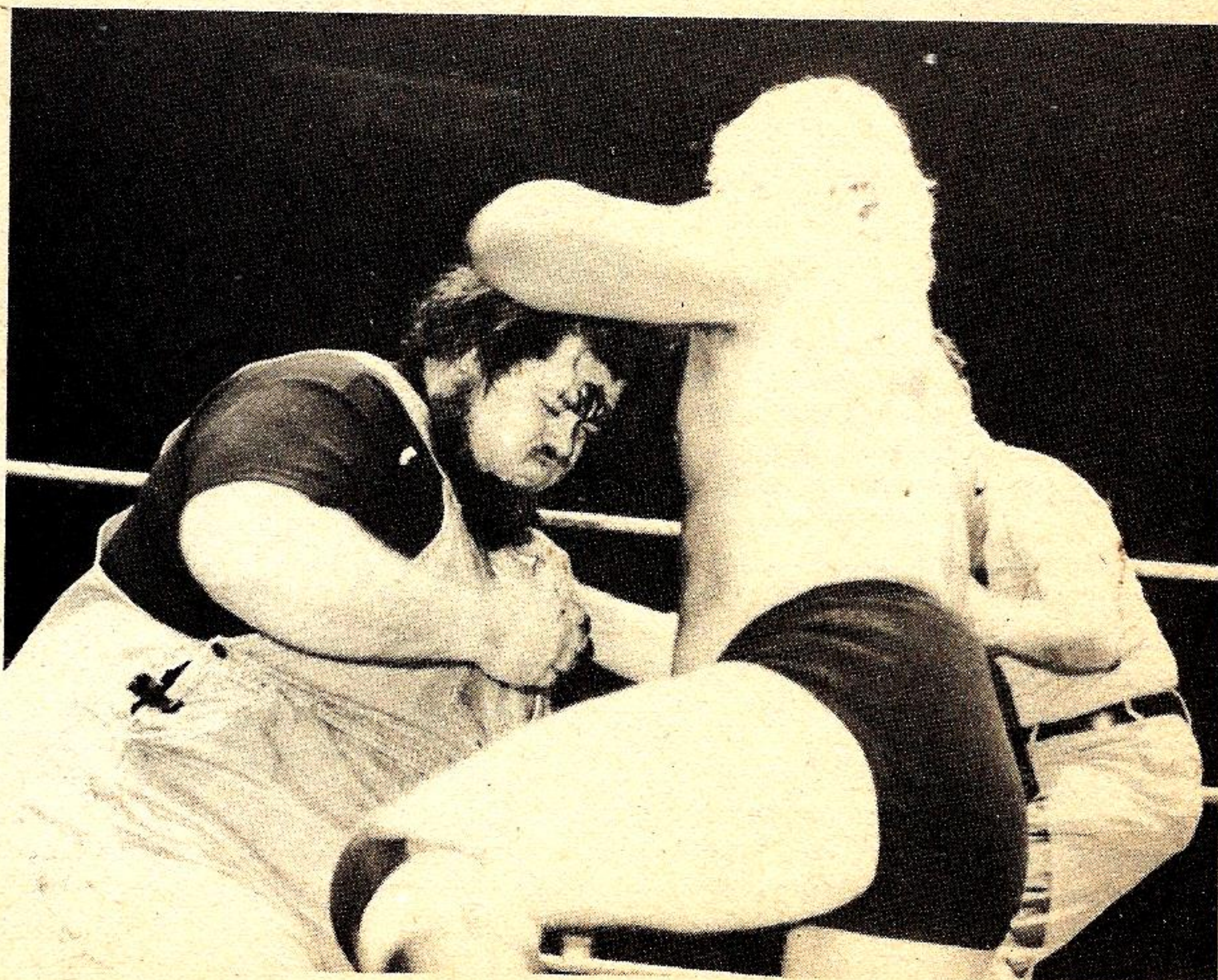
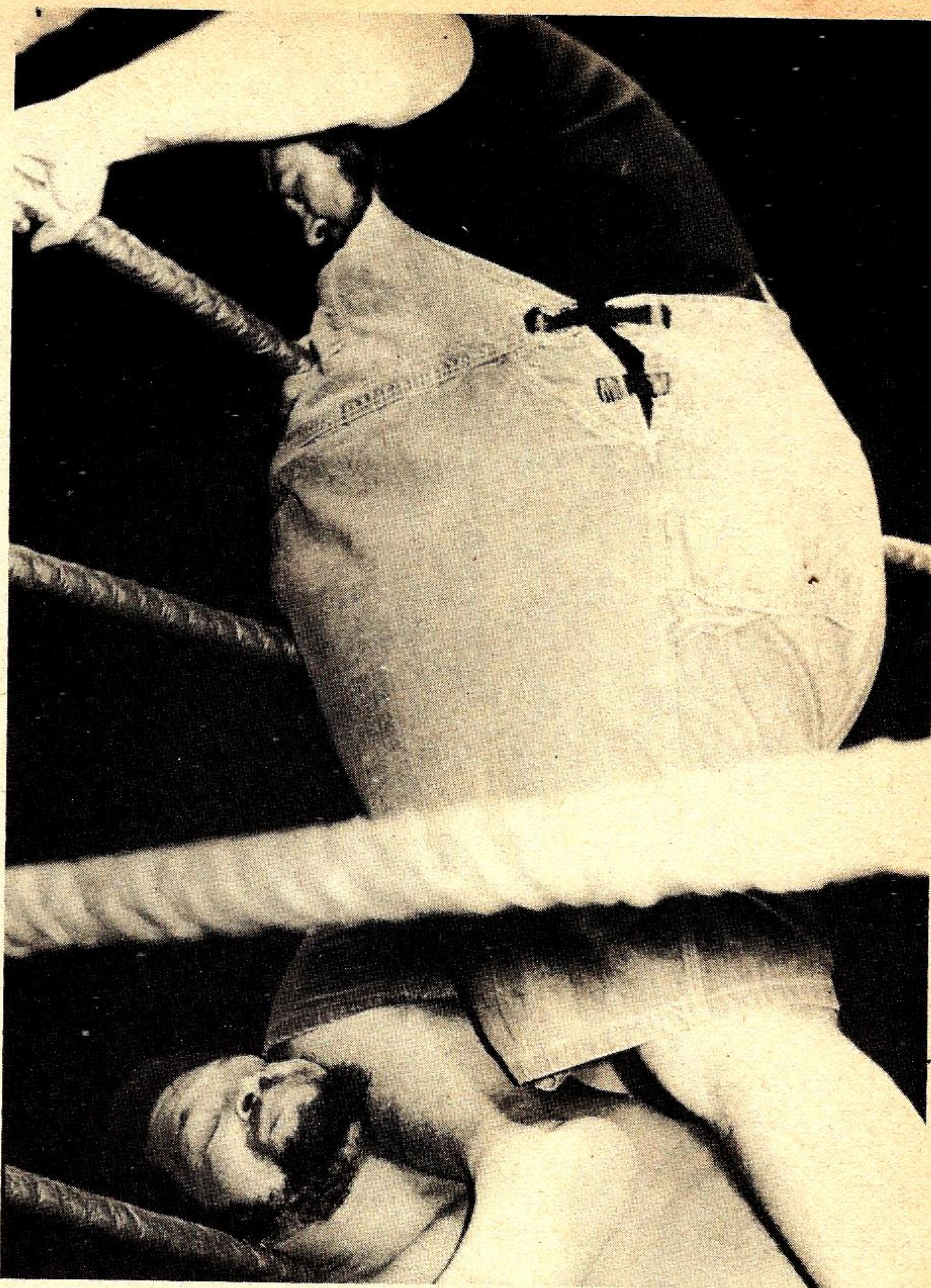
Haystacks stopped long enough to put on his winter coat. He continued, "When you see wrestlers like Bruno Sammartino, Bobo Brazil, Verne Gagne, Edoard Carpentier resort to fighting like an animal and spilling their opponents' blood, they do it because they are driven to it. These wrestlers are sportsmen and love a clean match like I do. We have to lower ourselves to our opponent's level. We are forced into it. That is a sad affair, men."

Another reporter asked Haystacks if he could prevent a match from getting out of hand. Said Calhoun, "Well I have a referee's license. I've refereed many matches of late. I try to keep the rules strictly enforced. If a wrestler tries to bring a weapon in play, well I just take out my lucky horseshoe and threaten to use it. They think twice about using any weapon."

Haystacks also had his opinion on how to stem the amount of blood spilled in the ring. He commented, "The athletic commissions should levy fines, revoke licenses and enforce the rules. It should be done but many states don't have athletic commissions. That is my opinion but I'm only one man. Maybe I'm speaking against the wind. I doubt that the things I mentioned will happen. I'll say this much anyway. I don't forget what has happened to me from anyone. I'll get even with them."

Haystacks Calhoun has been in wrestling a long time. "I don't like hurting a wrestler but I'm being pushed into it. If blood must be spilled then the other guy will bleed. I believe in sportsmanship but I don't know. It's getting harder every day."

Calhoun: "This blood in matches must stop!" Why should another wrestler want to make his opponent bleed?" Asked if he had used a weapon, Calhoun said: "Sure, but only in self defense."







MARK LEWIN'S WARNING TO TERRY FUNK

BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

The popular Lewin has faced the NWA champion before and has defeated him. He feels he can do so again . . . with the title on the line.

"I feel that I've paid my dues and now it's definitely time for me to win the big one. I've won scores of titles all over the country and the only thing left for me to do now is to go out and capture the World's Heavyweight title. This has been my main ambition ever since I broke into the sport and I am going to do everything in my power to make 1976 my year. As I sit here now the only thing on my mind is Terry Funk and his NWA title. I've defeated him before and I have to feel that if I get my chance against him again I will emerge with the World's Title." The speaker is a very determined Mark Lewin, and the all time favorite has made his future plans perfectly clear.

In his illustrious career the popular Lewin has captured virtually every title imagina-



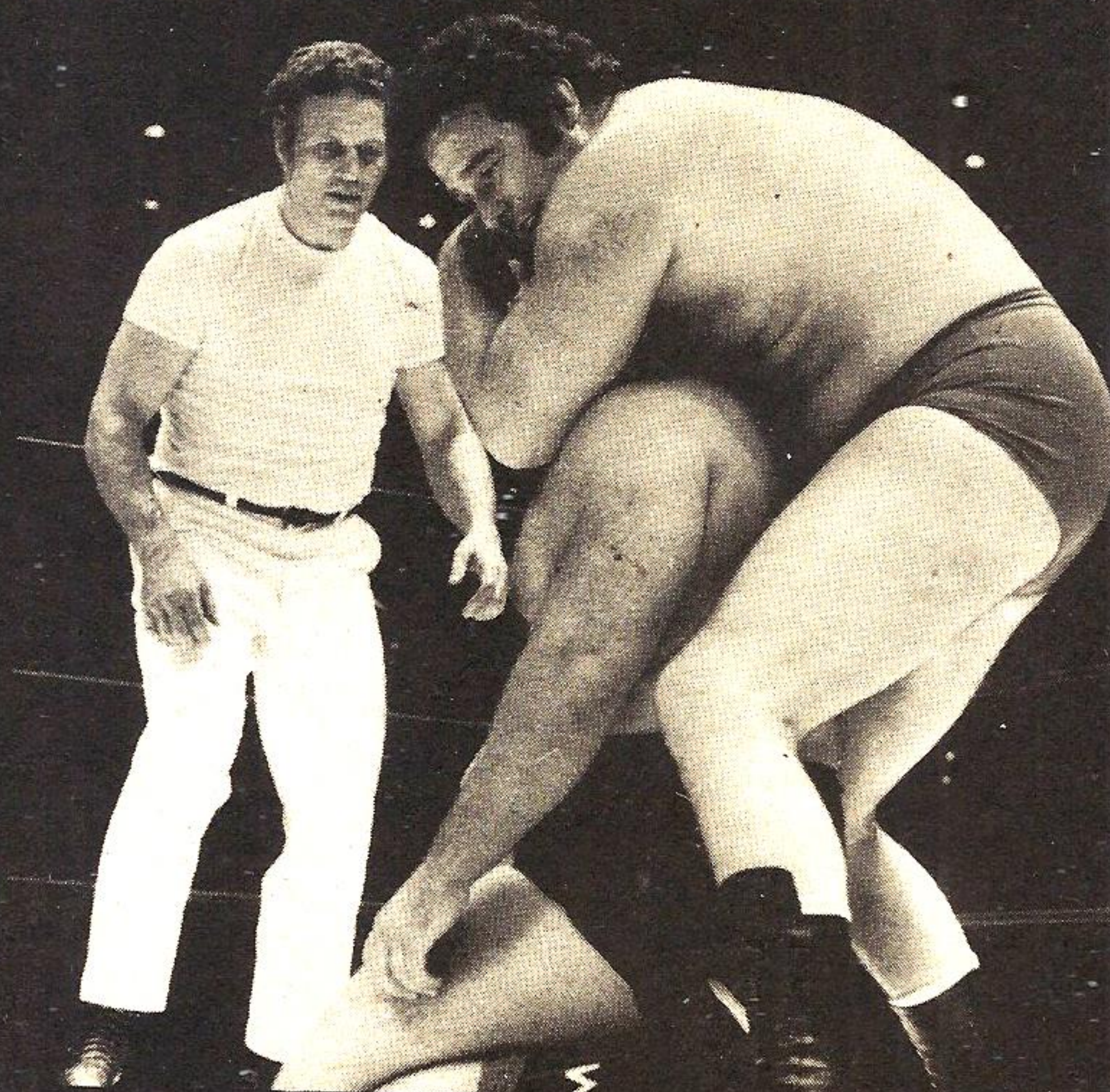
Above: Von Heller turns the table and slugs Mark Lewin. Says Lewin: "The only thing on my mind is Terry Funk and his N.W.A. title." Below: Lewin applies a sleeper to Chris Markoff in a Florida match.

ble since his early rise to fame as one half of the World's tag team champions in the early sixties with Don Curtis. Today, the New York City native is still going as strong ever.

In recent months Lewin has been campaigning in the Georgia-Florida area as well as in the Detroit-Toronto circuit and in both areas Lewin has emerged as the number one man to beat. In the Detroit-Toronto territory,

In the Detroit-Toronto territory, Lewin's clashes with the notorious Sheik have to be come of the wildest and bloodiest bouts ever seen there. In fact, the popular Lewin is the only man ever to defeat the Sheik in the Toronto Maple Leaf Garden in over four years. Their series of matches climaxed in Lewin's capturing the prized U.S. title in Detroit's Cobo Hall, an accomplishment of which he is mighty proud. "That Sheik had to be the wildest man I've ever faced in my entire career. He has no regards at all for any of the rules involved in wrestling and when you face him you have to ready for anything and everything. I personally like to wrestle more in the scientific vein but when I face the Sheik I just go in there, throw the rule book out the window and get down to his level. You have to bite, kick, scratch and gouge to beat

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Lewin again applies his famous sleeper hold, this time on Von Heller in their Atlanta, Georgia match.

Mil Mascaras:

He Likes The Going Tough

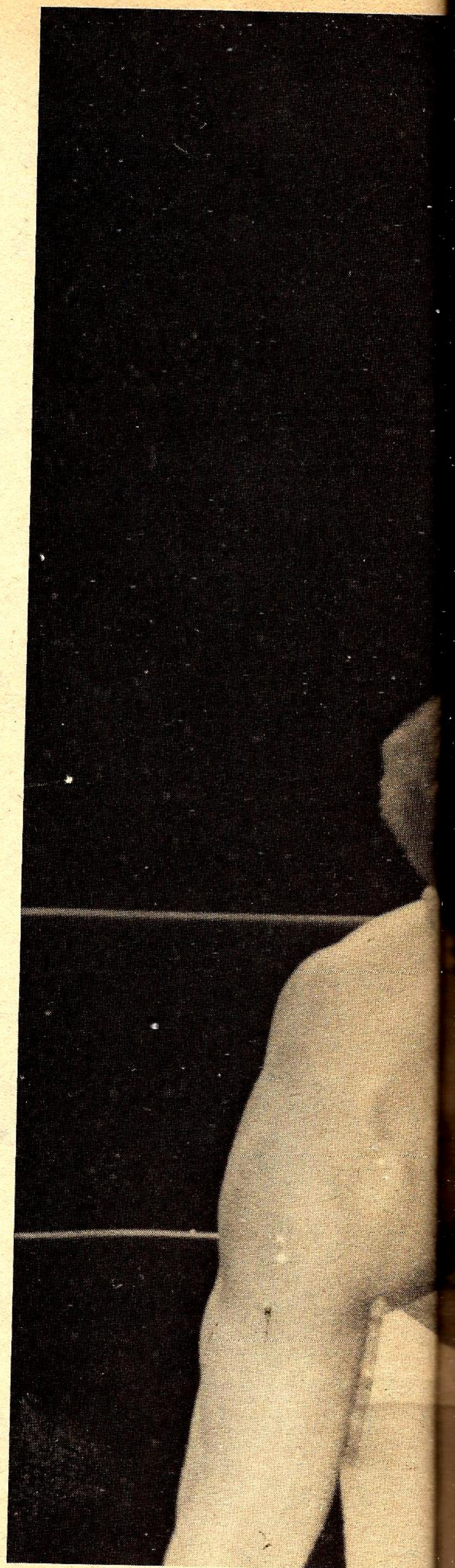
BY FRANK AMATO

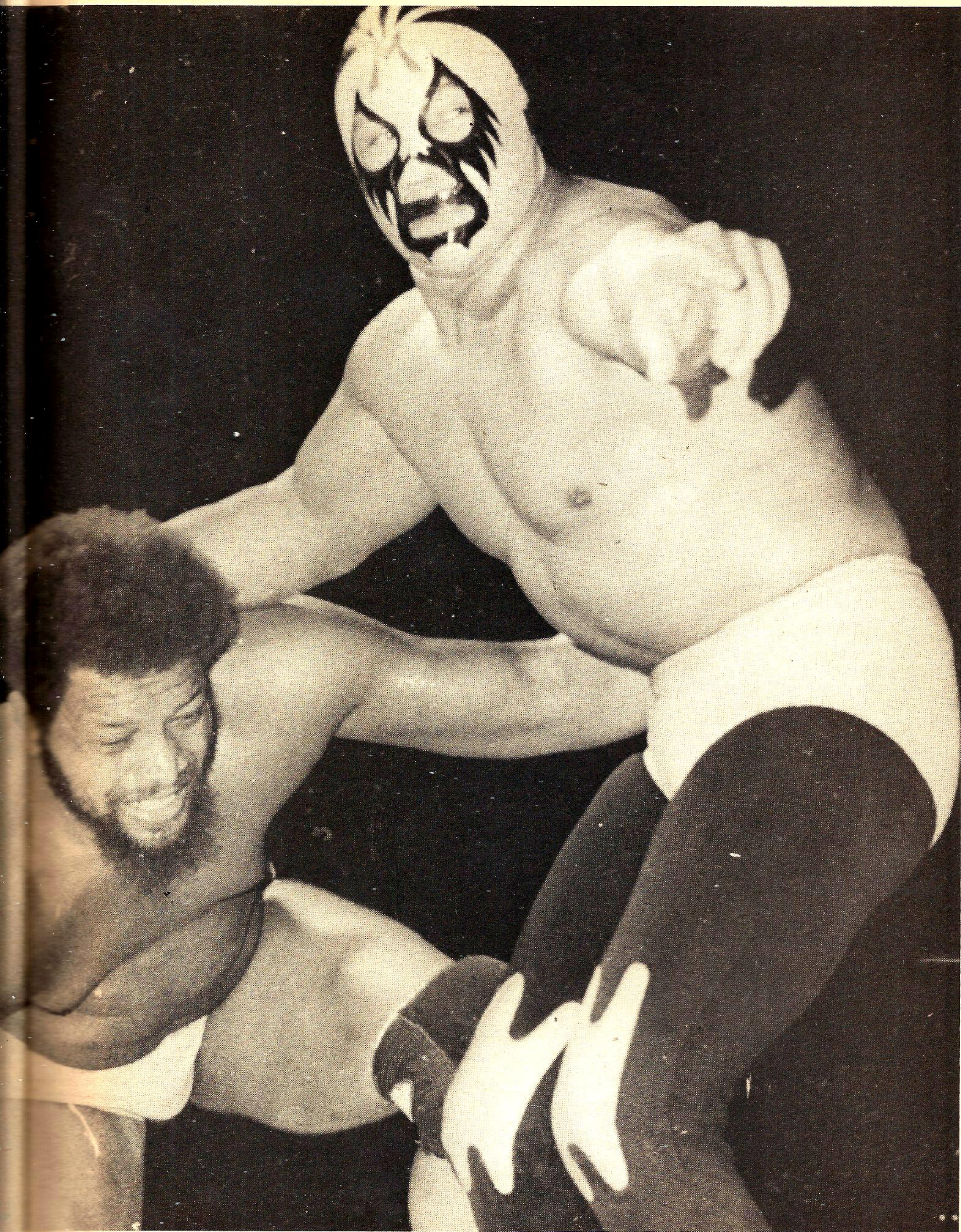
The rugged Mexican has complete confidence in himself. "I like good competition," he says. "In fact, I really thrive on it."

The electricity vibrates through the arena. The main event is scheduled next. The boos ring out meeting the opponent who in this case is 6 foot 9 inch, 300 pound Ernie Ladd, the self proclaimed 'King of Wrestling'. Ladd has his right hand taped. He is known to use this taped thumb to ram into the throat of his opponent. Ernie Ladd is very dangerous.

Making his way toward the ring amid the fans' wild cheers is a wrestler all dressed in a beautiful Mexican outfit. His face is covered by an equally beautiful mask. Around his waist is a large gold championship belt that represents the International Wrestling Association. Mil Mascaras has this gold belt because he is the proud holder of the title. Mil stands in the ring quietly nodding his head towards fans sitting at ringside. He looks cool, efficient, a pro who knows what is expected of him. He knows that his opponent, Ernie Ladd, is one of the toughest wrestlers around.

Says Mil about Ladd, "I know that this man can beat any wrestler around today. He





uses underhanded methods to win but he can wrestle when he wants to. I know his reputation. But I have complete confidence in myself. I like good competition. I really thrive on it."

As expected, Mascaras starts out fast using well-executed armdrags, hiprolls and leglocks to befuddle big Ernie Ladd. In return, Ladd waits for the opening and when he finds it, his large feet thud home at Mil's head, back, stomach and legs. Mil fights back with all the Mexican fury he can muster. Now Ladd reels under the attack. Far from finished, Ladd catches Mil with the taped thumb.

Mil is now in deep trouble, feeling the effects of Ladd's ruthless attack. Ladd tries his best to pin Mascaras but fails. Now Mil seems to gain his second wind. He fights back driving Ladd from corner to corner with Flying Headbutts and Dropkicks. Mil attempts his famous leap off the top turnbuckle for the pin but Ladd pushed Mil off. Mil wasn't to be denied now and by armwhipping Ladd off the ropes, he catches Ladd in his famous Abdominal Stretch and Ladd concedes the bout. Another dazzling victory for Mil Mascaras!

Victories look almost too easy for Mascaras. His full assortment of holds defies imagination. Not even he can give them all names. Says Mil, "I use many holds in my matches. I study my opponent first, trying to figure out what holds I should use. If some don't work I try others. It all depends on individual styles. For instance what might work against Ernie Ladd may not work that well against Bulldog Brower. One is big in height. The other is short but both are equally dangerous. My Abdominal Stretch works on Ladd but I may have trouble putting Brower in it. I rely on my speed in all my matches. There are few wrestlers who possess great speed and use it properly."

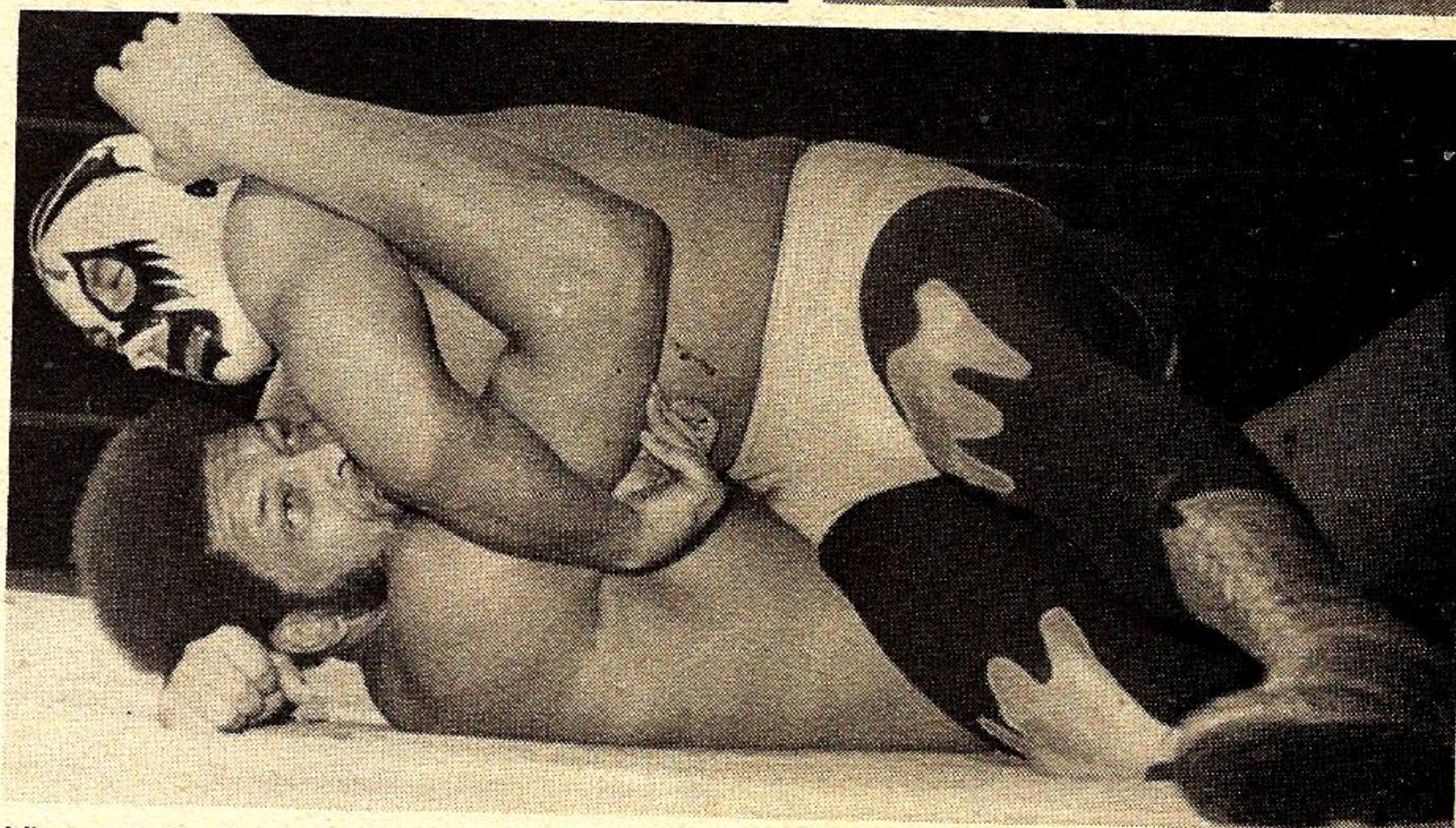
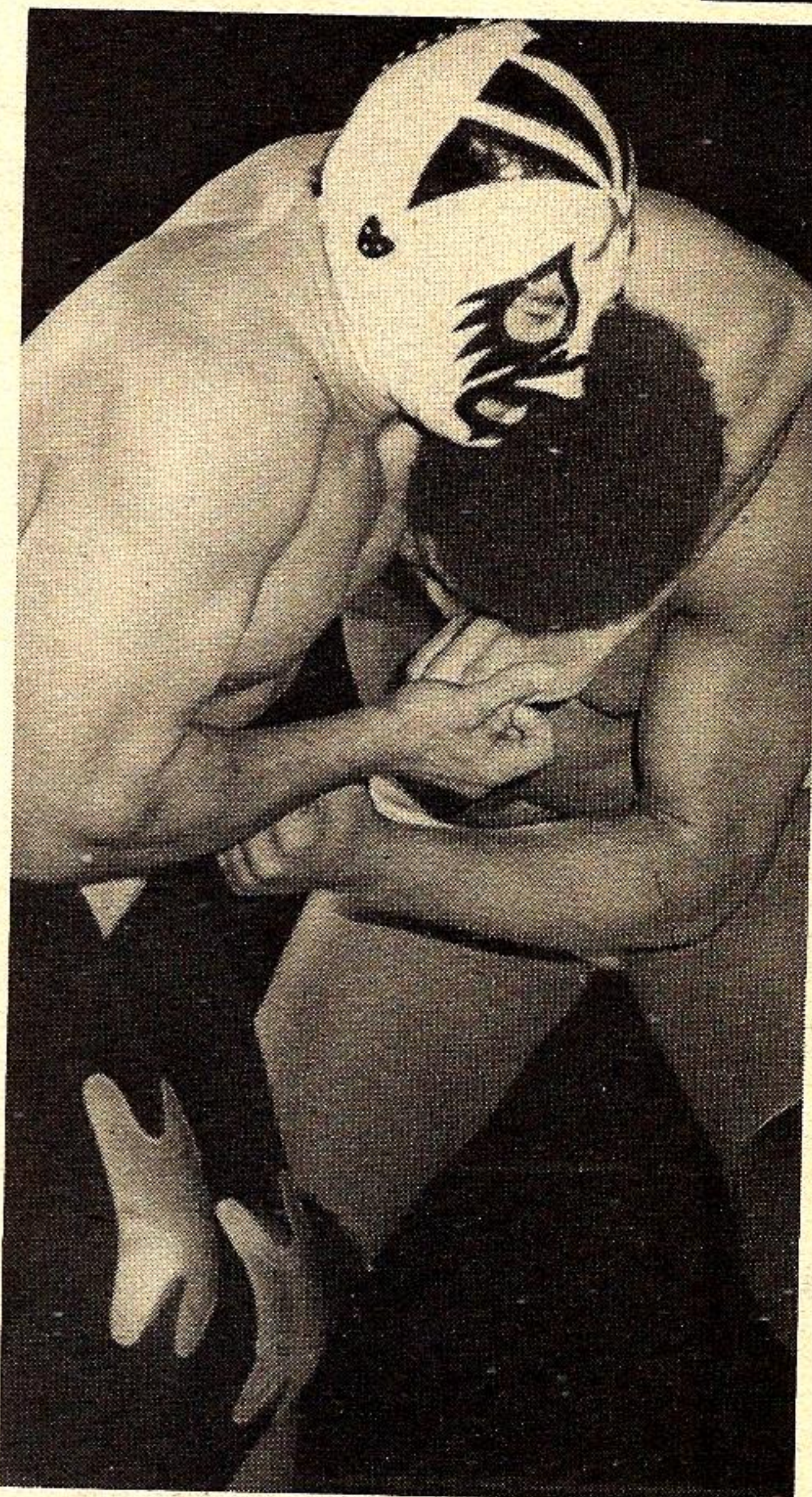
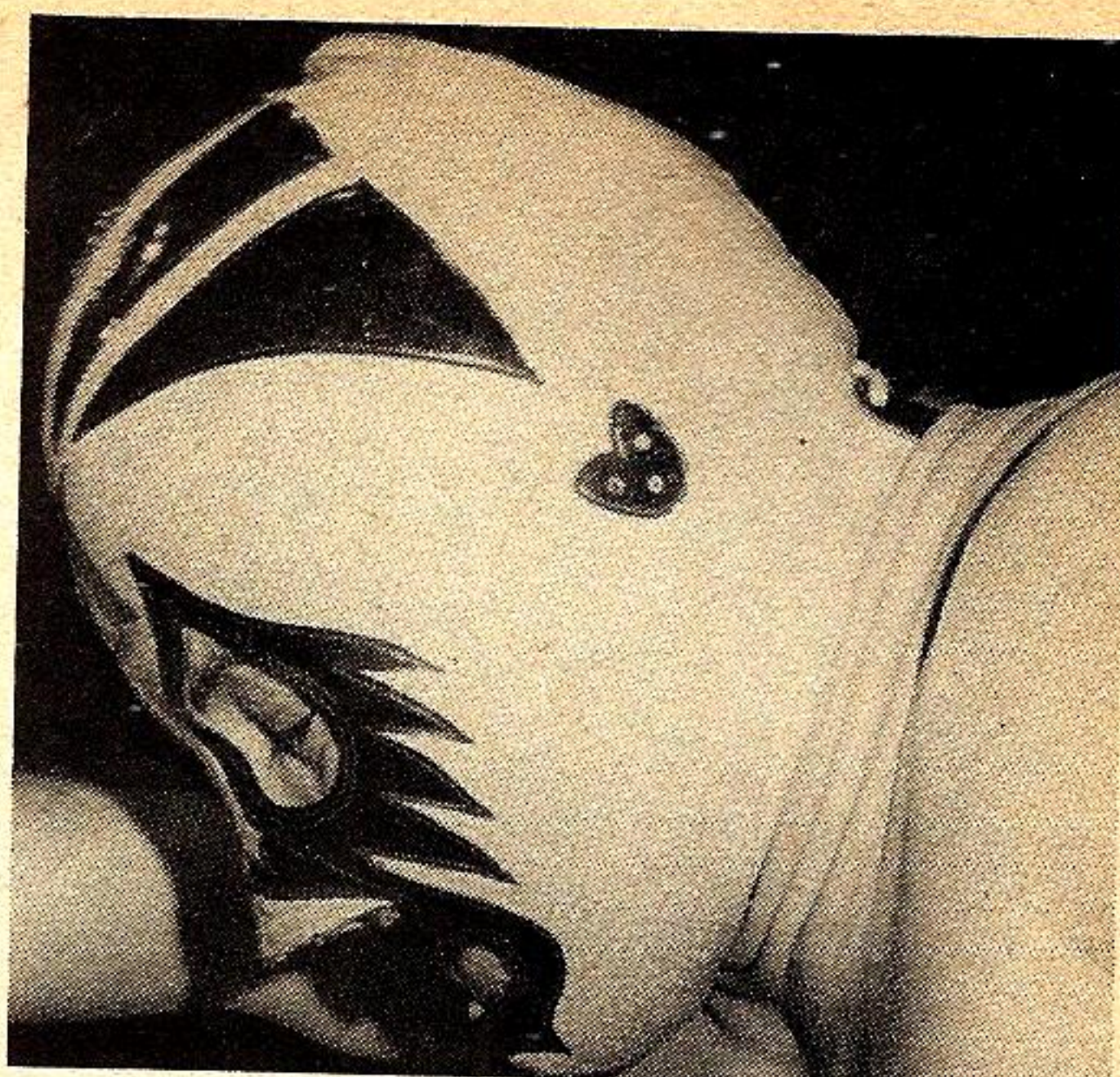
Mil Mascaras is, of course, not his real name. It is his professional ring name meaning "Man of a Thousand Masks". His real name is Aaron Miguelito Rodriguez. He is from a well-to-do Mexican family. Two other brothers are also professional wrestlers who also wear masks. They are El Sicodelico and Dos Caras. Why a family of masked wrestlers? Mil explains, "My family is well known in Mexico and the masks are to protect our identity. It has become not only my trademark but my brothers as well. I never wrestle without my mask. My face has never been seen."

A state law was passed in New York City so Mil Mascaras could wrestle in Madison Square Garden. There had been a ban on masked wrestlers for over 15 years. Pressure from fans who wanted to see the great Mascaras prompted the New York State Athletic Commission to change the law.

As a young teenager, Mil was interested in wrestling. He worked out, constantly building up his tremendous

Mascaras professional ring name means "Man of a Thousand Masks."

Mil explains: "My family is well-known in Mexico and the masks protect our identity. I never wrestle without my mask. My face has never been seen."



Victories took almost too easy for Mascaras. His full assortment of holds defies imagination. Not even he can give them all names.

physique. In high school and college Mil played football. His speed made him very elusive. But it was wrestling which Mil decided to pursue. As an amateur wrestler, Mil went undefeated. His razzle dazzle style thrilled the Mexican fans.

Promoters in Los Angeles kept a keen eye on Mil and offered him a big contract. It was in a Los Angeles-based operation that Mascaras became well known. His new style of wrestling was different. His well-built body, cat-like movements and winning ways made him a very hot attraction.

Mascaras won all the major titles in Los Angeles. At several different times he held The Americas Heavyweight

Championship and Americas Tag Team Championship. His title matches against such grapplers as Fred Blassie, Black Gordman, Great Goliath, Maniac John Tolos and Ernie Ladd proved Mil's great attraction.

Mil Mascaras is no stranger in any area. In Texas, Mil had the fans cheering wildly. At one time he held, with his good friend Jose Lothario, the Texas Tag Team Championship. In Texas, Mil lost two different attempts to Dory Funk Jr. and Jack Brisco for the NWA Championship.

In Japan, Mascaras is cheered even against their own favorites. Mil is considered almost a national hero there. His

battles with Baba the Giant and The Masked Destroyer are considered mat classics. It becomes a major event when Mil Mascaras journeys to the Orient. Mil says about Japan and their wonderful fans, "I love going to Japan. They have top wrestlers there and the fans treat you great. I'm treated like a king there. The country is just beautiful."

Mascaras stands 6 feet and weighs 235 pounds. His colorful masks and costumes awe the fans throughout the world. Mil would like to win the three major wrestling titles. These are the WWWF, NWA and AWA World Championships. During the past years he has wrestled for two of them. Mil has gamely tried but failed to gather in the NWA belt. He has met former champions who were then the title holders: Gene Kiniski; Dory Funk Jr. and Jack Brisco. Still Mascaras carries on his quest for this title. Mil also tried unsuccessfully to win the AWA title when Verne Gagne held the title.

So far, Mascaras has yet to try for the WWWF title. Bruno Sammartino holds this belt. Surely a match between these two great wrestlers would be a thrilling duel. Says Mil, "I would like nothing better than to wrestle Sammartino. I've not tried to compete in this area but perhaps in the future."

Mil Mascaras looks towards the new holders of the NWA and AWA World Titles, Terry Funk and Nick Bockwinkel. Mil says, "I have wrestled them before and beat them and I'm sure I could win those titles. They can look over their shoulders soon and see Mil Mascaras in their backyards. I want a world title."

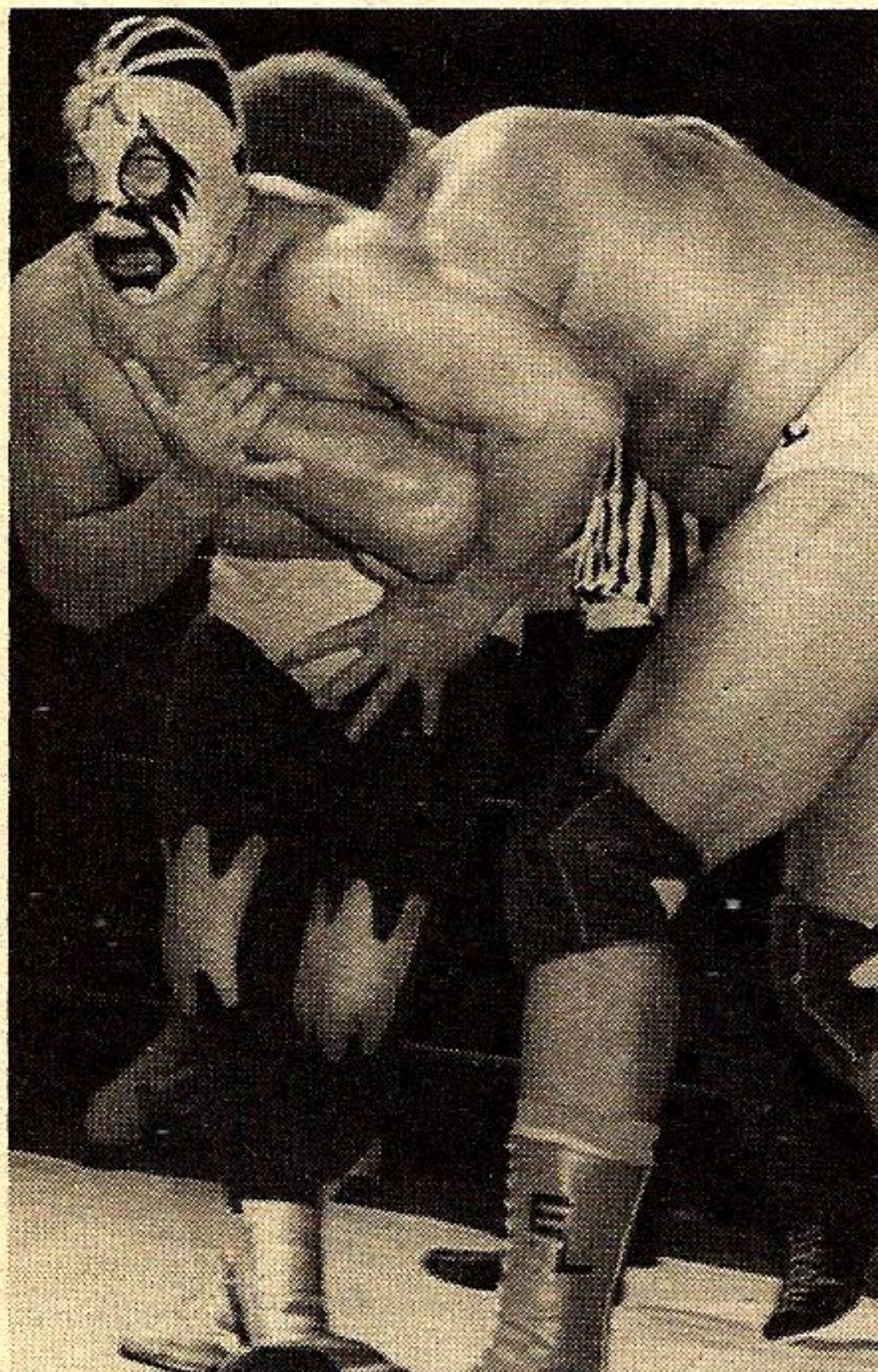
Mascaras always keeps in top condition. He trains every day. He watches his diet. Even when he is making a movie in Mexico he never stops training. Mil comments, "To become a top wrestler, being in top condition is most important. When you have to wrestle great wrestlers like Ivan Koloff, Jack Brisco, Dory Funk Jr., Bulldog Brower or The Sheik, being in top form is important. You have to be at your very best. Many villains try to destroy you and not just beat you. Your body takes a continuous pounding. I look for the top wrestlers. I thrive on tough competition. You can only become the best by beating the best."

Many experts predict that Mascaras will definitely become a future world champion. He has come close before and only time will tell when that big moment will come. If and when Mascaras does win a world championship he will become the very first masked wrestler to perform this historic feat.

Mascaras says, "I want the world title. It's what I'm in wrestling for. I have complete confidence in my abilities. I've been looking at films of the champions and have my battle plans all worked out. Now all that is needed is the chance to try and win the titles. Mil Mascaras is headed your way."



As expected, Mil starts out fast against big Ernie Ladd, using well executed armdrags, hiprolls and leglocks to stymie his opponent. He catches Ladd in his famous Abdominal Stretch and Ladd concedes the bout.

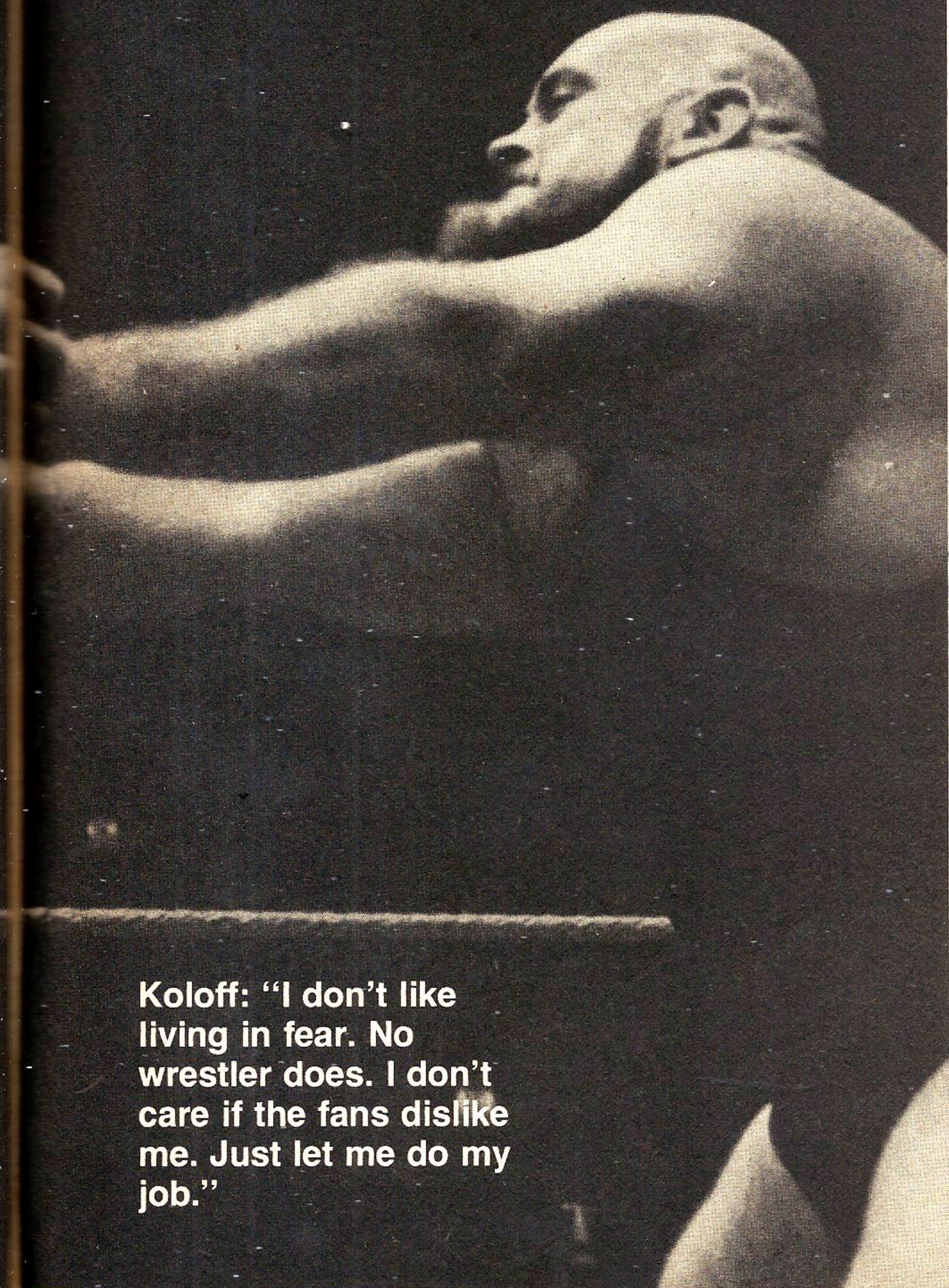


**“I Fear For
My Life,”
Cries
Ivan Koloff**

BY FRANK AMATO

Ivan Koloff and his manager Captain Lou Albano were sitting in their dressing room. Perspiration glistened on the powerful muscled torso of Koloff. Just minutes before Ivan Koloff had tried unsuccessfully to win the WWWF World Heavyweight Championship from Bruno Sammartino. Ivan Koloff was obviously tired and his body was heaving heavily. Captain Lou Albano had the look of a scared man.

What was troubling Lou Albano? He said, "I can't believe those crazy fans. Did you see what they were doing? One fan hit me with a rolled program or newspaper. Another threw a soft drink in my face. One fan hit Ivan on the back with a fist. And all this just heading to the ring. I tell you I'm scared and scared for Ivan."



Koloff: "I don't like living in fear. No wrestler does. I don't care if the fans dislike me. Just let me do my job."

Koloff stood up and shook his fist, saying, "Why do these idiots do these things? What have they against Koloff? Why do they hate Koloff so much? Is it because I beat their precious Bruno Sammartino for the WWWF World Heavyweight Championship five years ago? It must be, because I'm treated this way only in the WWWF territory."

Lou Albano cut in with, "Right you are, Ivan. That is exactly the reason. You beat their great hero Sammartino for the title five years ago and they can't forget. They hate you like no other wrestler. They hate you because they actually fear you. They fear you will repeat your victory over Bruno Sammartino and take that belt away from him."

There was perhaps much truth in what Lou Albano said. If there is one thing that Koloff will always be remembered for, it is that famous historic feat of dethroning Bruno Sammartino back on January 18, 1971 in Madison Square Garden. No wrestling fan who was there will forget it.

An SRO crowd came to witness WWWF Champion Bruno Sammartino defend his coveted belt against Ivan Koloff. The wrestling fans were definitely behind Sammartino this night. They had no fear that Bruno would conquer the Russian from Moscow. Hadn't Bruno beaten back several challenges by Koloff during 1969?

It was true. During that particular time in Koloff's career he was being managed by his discoverer, Tony Angelo. Then in early 1970, after failing to dethrone Sammartino, Tony Angelo sent Koloff on a world tour. Six months later Koloff returned with Tony Angelo. Looking on behind the scenes was Lou Albano. Albano was impressed with Koloff. Just when Koloff became the number one challenger to Sammartino, the wrestling world was shocked by the news of Tony Angelo selling Koloff's contract to Lou Albano for \$100,000. Angelo also threw in the contract of The Mongols, who were holders of the WWWF International Tag Team Championship.

Lou Albano explained this transaction, "When Ivan Koloff first appeared in the WWWF area I was still an active wrestler but I was contemplating retiring to become a manager. Well, I saw Koloff in action. I saw the next WWWF champion. I tried buying Koloff's contract then but Angelo refused. I made myself a promise that someday I would be Koloff's manager. When Koloff returned, I was a manager and a very successful one. This time I kept after Tony Angelo to buy him out. I finally said the magic price and the rest became history."

Lou Albano had films of many Sammartino bouts. Albano ran the films over and over until he found the weak link in Sammartino's armor. Then he trained Koloff on this one weak link. He had his battle plan ready the night of the title

bout. Albano entered the arena grinning like the proverbial cat who swallowed the canary. Little did anyone know that George Steele had injured Sammartino three nights earlier and Steele informed Albano of the injury. This fact was revealed two years later by Steele and confirmed by Sammartino.

So on the historic night, Koloff did battle with Sammartino. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary as the match progressed. Except that Sammartino did not use or try to use his two famous submission holds: his Bearhug and his Backbreaker. For Sammartino had injured his ribs and right shoulder against George Steele. So Koloff put on the pressure and pounded the ribs of Sammartino. Then Koloff bodyslammed Sammartino on the injured shoulder. Bruno was now hurt and stunned. Koloff then delivered his famous Russian Kneedrop across Bruno's throat and pinned Bruno for the WWWF title.

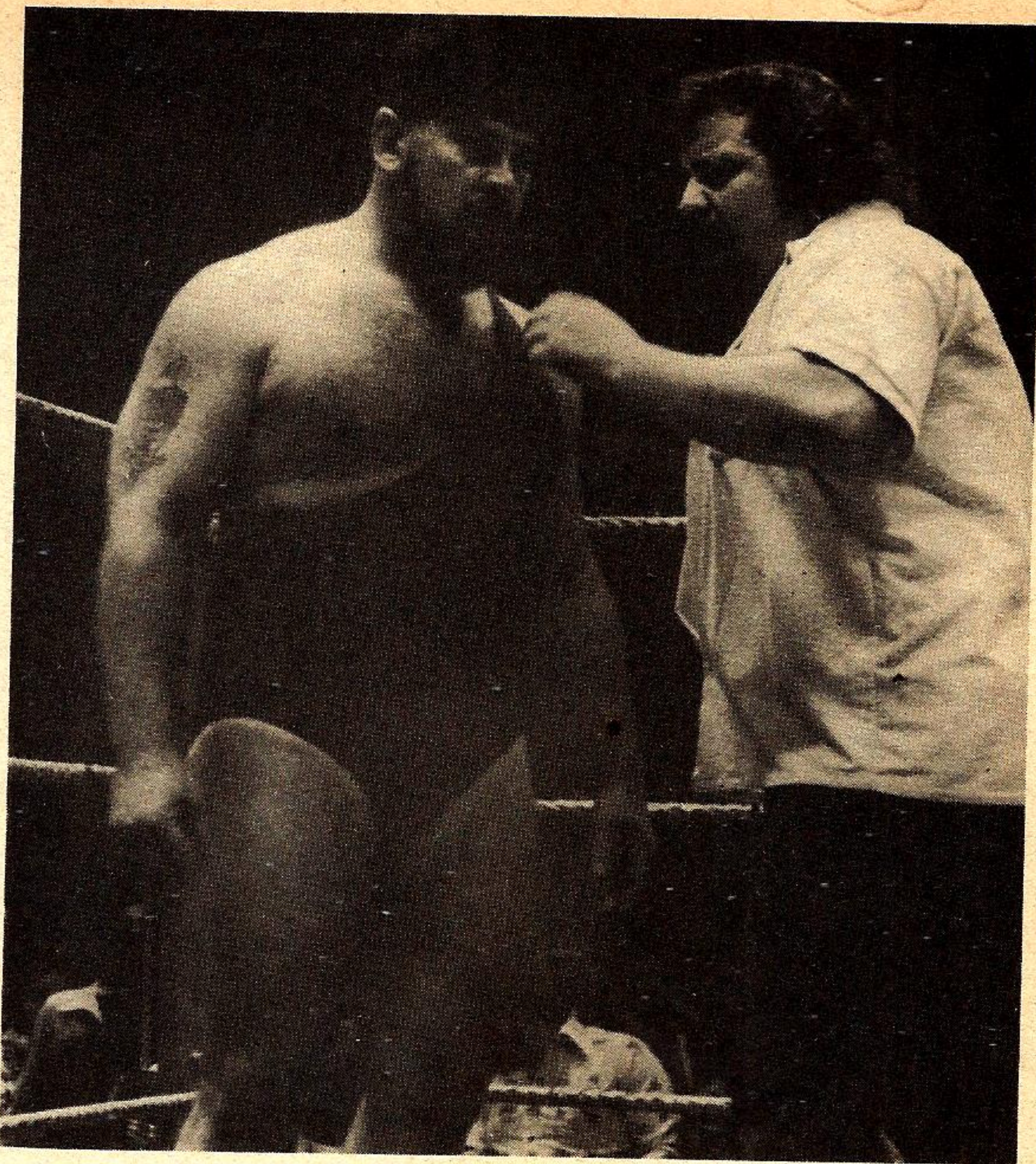
From this match forward Koloff became a marked wrestler. Sure he was famous and a world champion. Sure he had defeated the living legend. Now he would pay for this infamous act. The WWWF wrestling fans made Koloff the most hated wrestler ever to appear in WWWF rings.

Koloff remembers his two bouts against Sammartino just three months later in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. By this time, Koloff had lost his title to Pedro Morales. The fans in Pittsburgh didn't care. They wanted to see Bruno, the favorite son of their city, beat the man who took away the title from him.

Said Ivan, "When I faced Sammartino, the fans were unruly. I was pelted with many kinds of debris. I showed my bravado but Koloff was scared inside. When Sammartino injured me, the fans cheered him and booed me with vile names and unprintable remarks. Many wished me dead."

Afterwards wherever Koloff would appear, his new-found stardom preceded him. Wrestling promoters across the country wanted to sign up the wrestler who defeated Bruno Sammartino. Now Koloff had become more than a wrestling star; he had become a superstar in his own right. For the next two years Ivan appeared in the AWA areas trying to wrest away the AWA Championship from Verne Gagne. During this time The Big K became the road manager for Ivan.

The Big K said of Koloff during those two years, "I never managed a more professional wrestler. Ivan was stronger than most wrestlers. He was an excellent competitor. He listened to my every word. Still I could see this deep thought back in his mind. He never would tell me what it was. His attitude towards the fans was very stoic. He tried being oblivious to the fans. They would yell, jeer and boo him. When they threw objects his way he



Ivan Koloff and his manager Captain Lou Albano confer in the ring prior to a match.

showed no emotion. I think he actually feared them but wouldn't dare show any emotion. In the ring Ivan proved fearless. He won his matches with great efficiency. I think at times he went about beating his opponents with pure pleasure. The more the fans showered him with abuse, the more vicious he became. I'm sure this vicious attitude cost him his title bouts with Verne Gagne. Ivan could have whipped Gagne."

Now Ivan Koloff is back in the WWWF. Captain Lou Albano once again is managing the man he took to the pinnacle of greatness. Bruno Sammartino once again owns the WWWF gold belt. There have been several attempts by Koloff to win the WWWF belt but these efforts have proved futile. Said Albano, "I must admit Sammartino has learned plenty about Ivan's style. He's done his homework. Still Ivan should have the title. Just look at the matches between Koloff and Sammartino. Not once did Bruno have a decisive edge. Ivan has out-wrestled, out-fought and out-thought Sammartino in every way. Yet the belt still belongs to Sammartino."

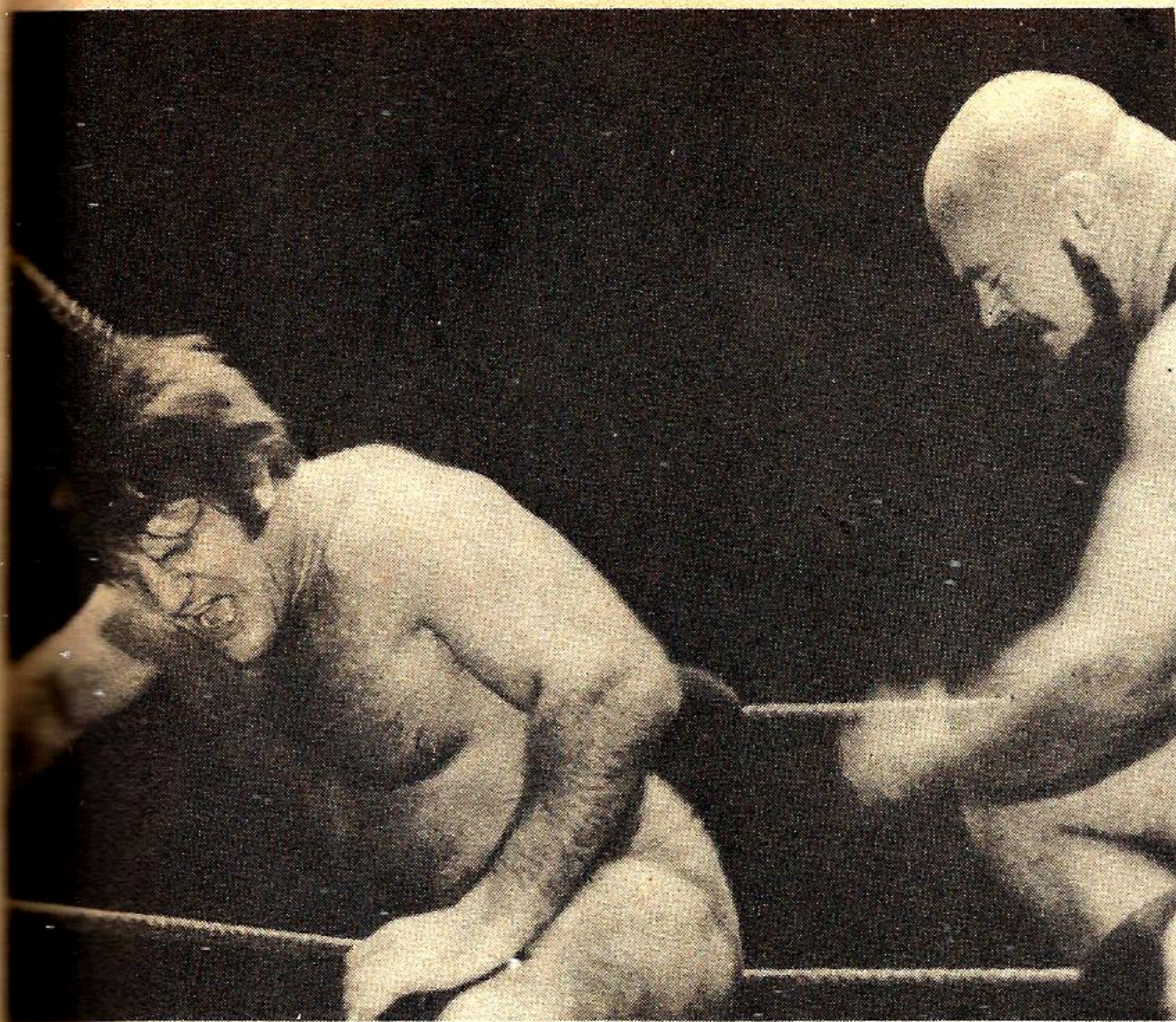
Koloff then commented, "I beat Sammartino. I show Sammartino and the fans I'm better than he is. Sammartino knows I can beat him. He doesn't forget

five years ago. I have not won the title because Sammartino is protected. What must Koloff do to win the title?"

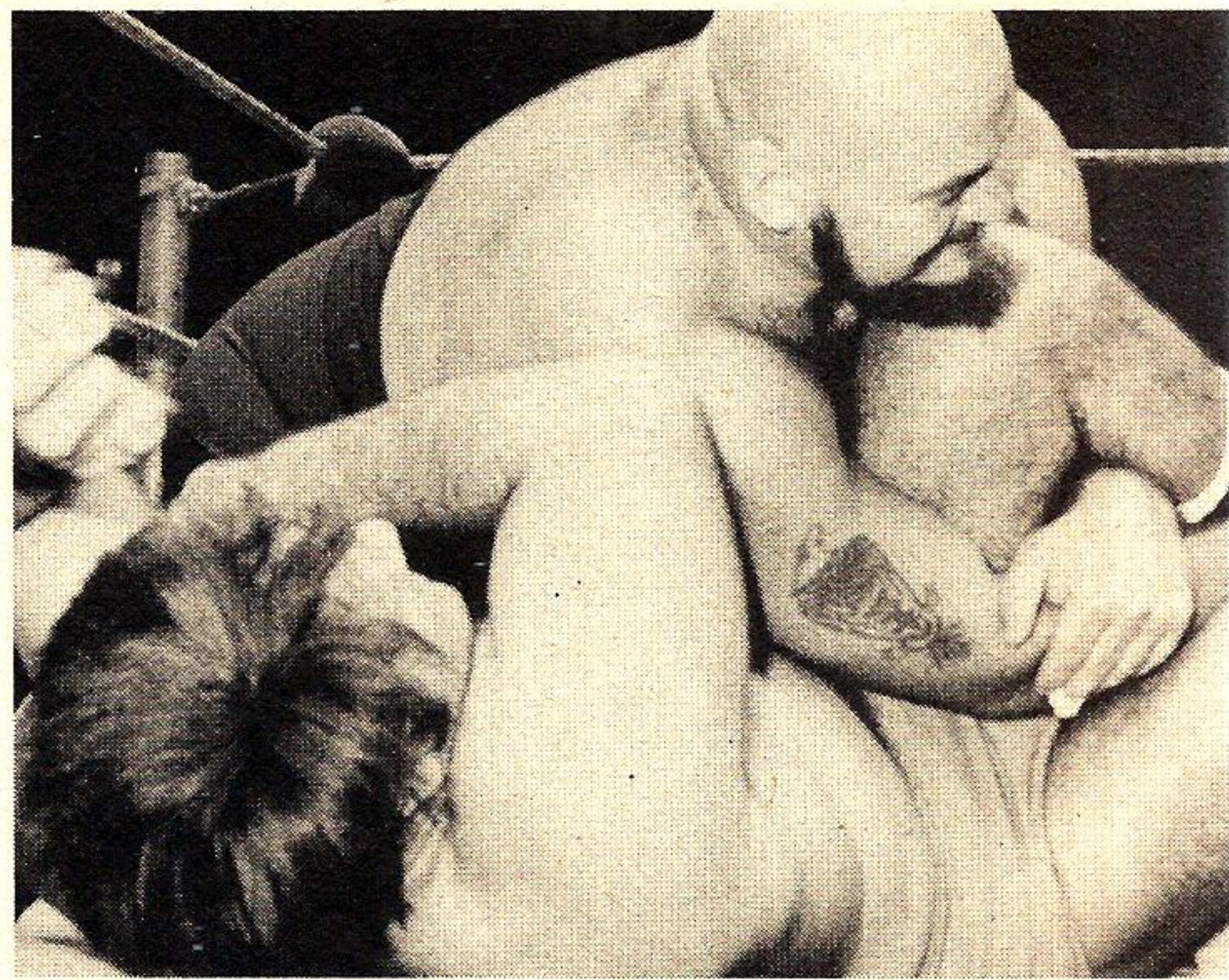
Ivan Koloff became the wrestler who defeated Bruno Sammartino for the title. It was a historic night. Now Koloff became involved in another "first" in a match with Bruno Sammartino. On December 15, 1975 at Madison Square Garden the very first Steel Cage Bout in New York State was held. Once again, Koloff failed to win the title. Ivan was left a bloody, battered and beaten wrestler.

The fans still flock to see Koloff wrestle. Especially against Sammartino. The fans still shower Koloff with abuse not shown to any villain. Perhaps the fans fear Koloff and show their fear with their abusive attitude. They fear Koloff because he beat Sammartino once and he could perform that feat again.

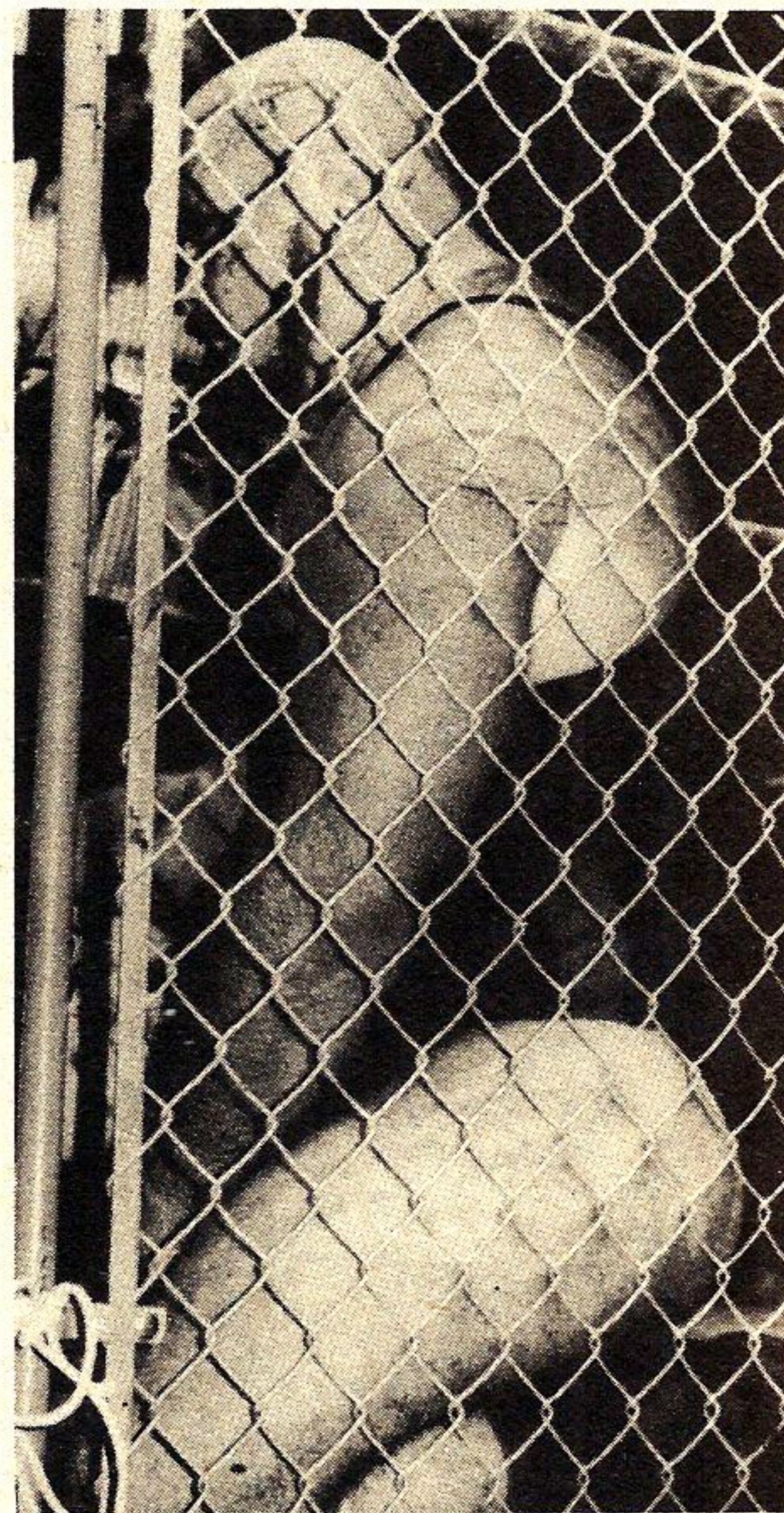
Koloff said, "Maybe this is true. The fans can say what they please. I don't think any wrestler should have objects thrown at him. I do my job. I get paid to wrestle. I don't like living in fear. No wrestler does. I will win the title again. Regardless of what the fans say or do. Let Ivan Koloff alone and let me wrestle. This is what I ask. Ivan Koloff is human being. I don't care if fans dislike Koloff. Just let me do my job."



Koloff drives his knee into the back of Bruno Sammartino.



Koloff tries a semi-Boston Crab on Bruno Sammartino but Bruno survives.



Above: Koloff slumps in a corner, bloody and beaten after the historic steel cage bout. Left: Koloff displays his wounds after steel cage bout as manager Lou Albano shows his concern.



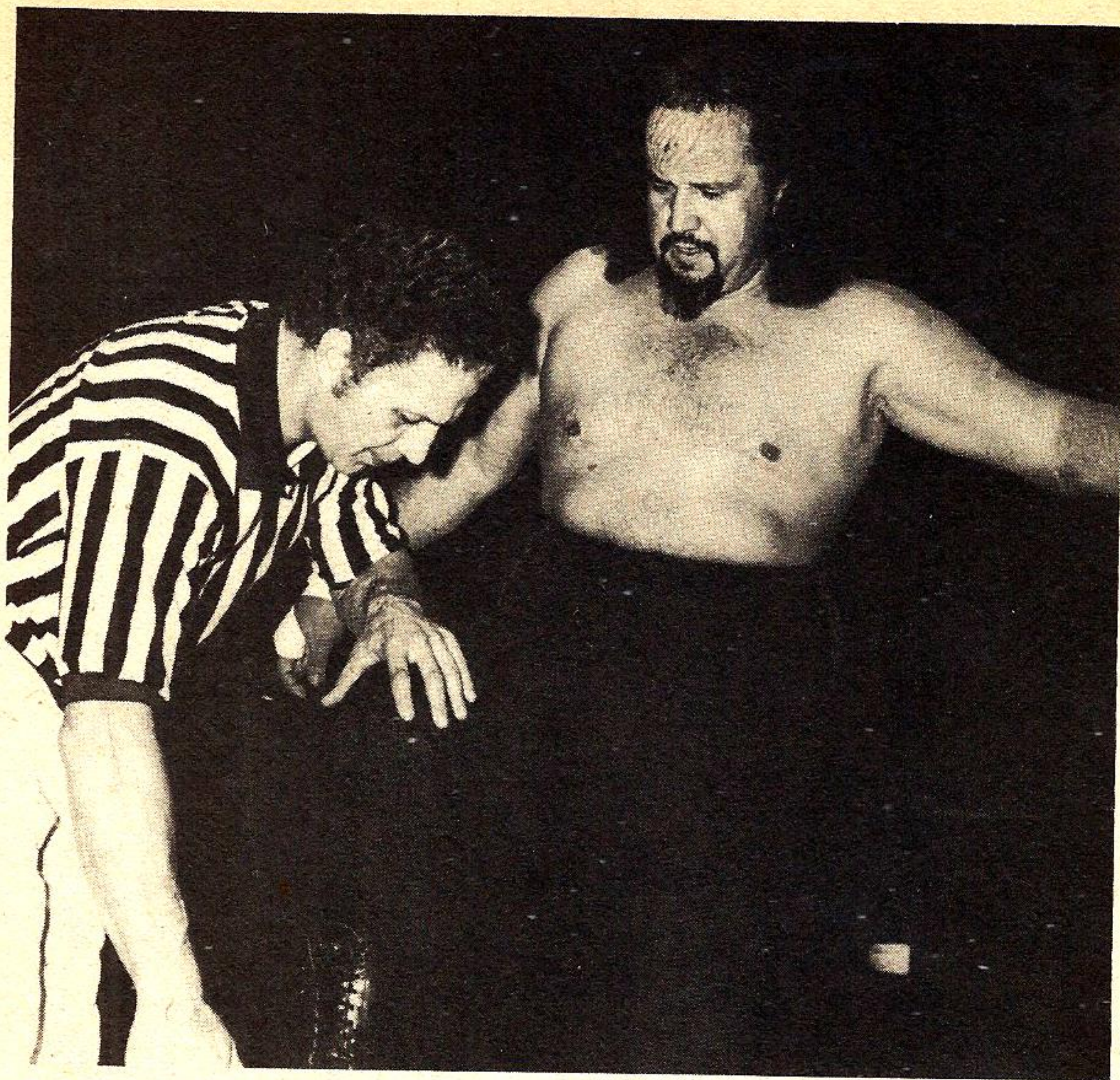
"I MAKE MY OPPONENTS SUFFER!"

"I love to see that happen," growls Curtis. "Merely pinning an opponent doesn't prove anything. The only way to truly beat him is to make him suffer."

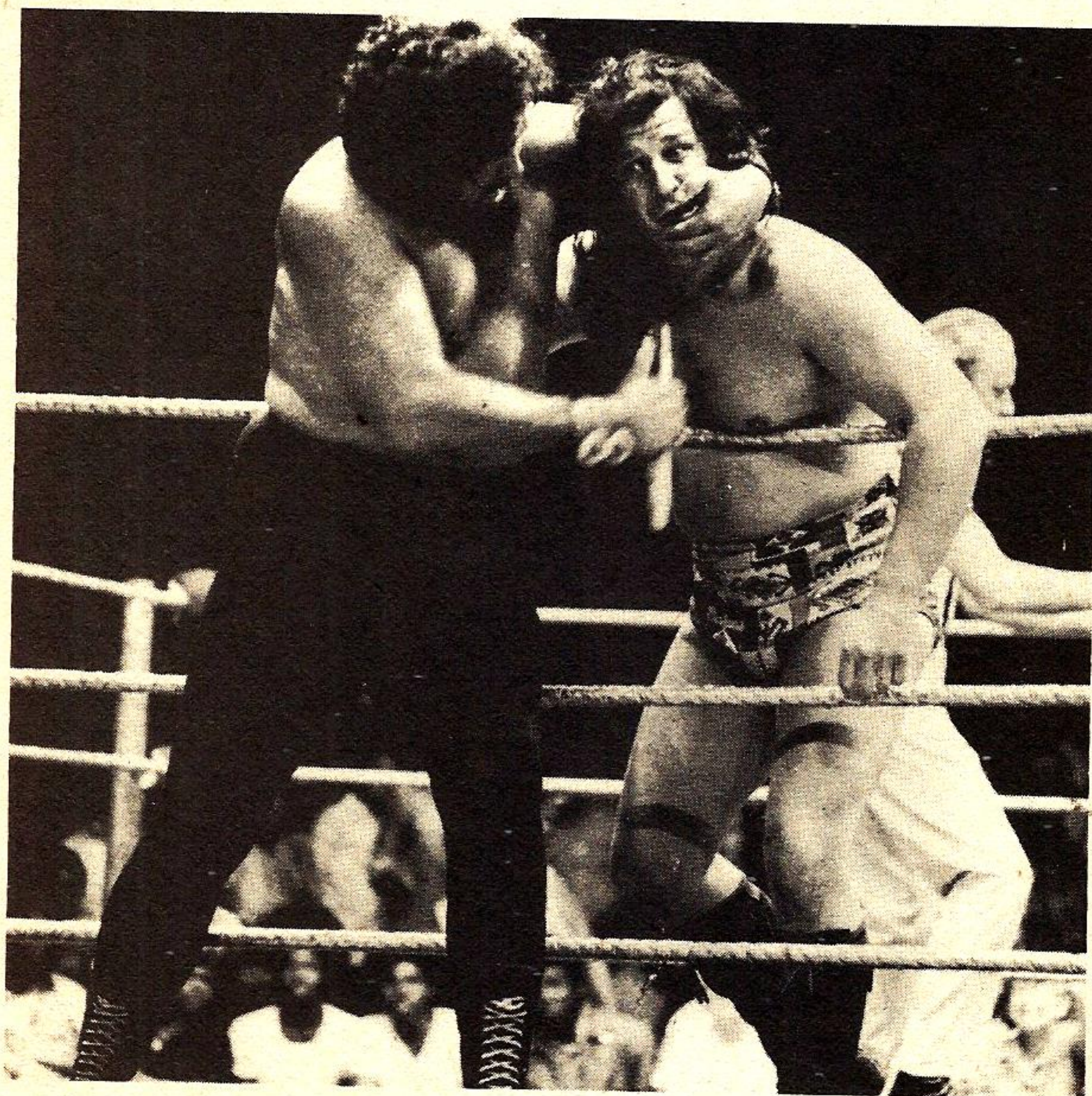
BY GEORGE NAPOLITANO

An out and out maniac" is the only way to adequately describe the most feared man in the Florida area today, King Curtis. Curtis is without a doubt one of the most vicious men in the profession and whenever the King steps into that ring one should expect to see anything and everything happen. His usual match consists of biting, clawing, chewing and gouging his poor opponent with his ultimate goal being "the sight of that nice flowing blood," as Curtis has said on numerous occasions. "Ultimate destruction is all that I'm after," the King stated after one of his battles in the West Palm Beach Auditorium. "Nothing else matters to me. I don't need titles to prove I'm the best. Everyone already knows this. If a title happens to fall my way I'll take it but it is not my ambition in life. I just love to see my opponents suffer. This alone gives me the greatest satisfaction of all. Merely pinning a man doesn't prove anything. The only way to truly beat a man is to make him suffer and suffer bad. You have to take an object and just lay him open. Once that blood starts flowing then I'm in my glory because I know that I am in full command. I'll admit that I'm not a wrestler. I'm a brawler and I have been winning all my battles for as long as I can remember. Where I was born you had to fight to survive and I learned how to use a chair, a black jack and even a knife to stay alive. Now I am using these same tactics in the ring, and I have been very successful and I will remain successful until the end of time."

Before invading the Sunshine State, King Curtis wrestled successfully throughout



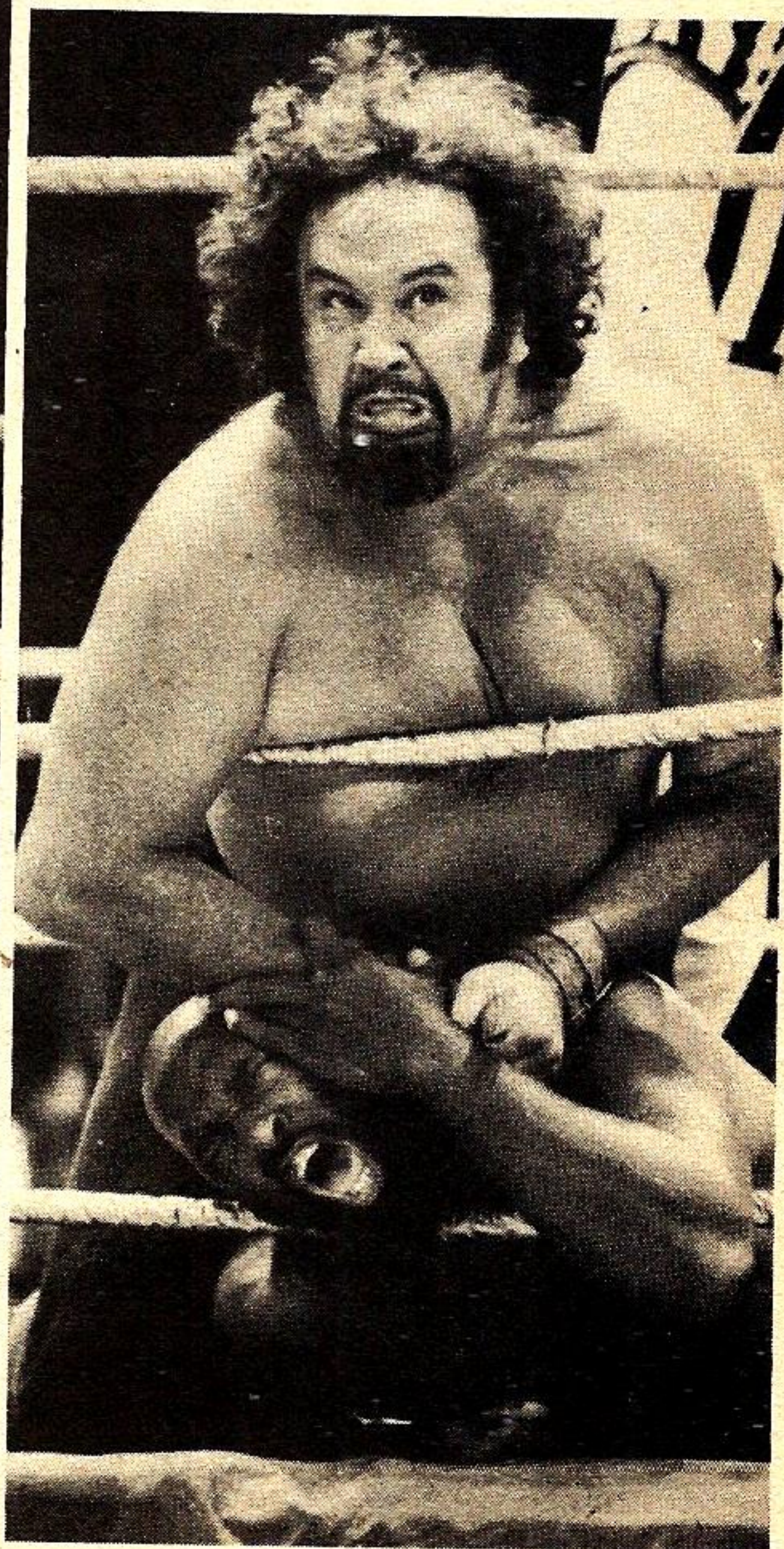
Referee checks Curtis for any foreign objects he may have hidden and the King obliges without protesting.



the country picking up awards and titles all along the way. The people in New York can't help but remember the way King Curtis came into the W.W.W.F. area and immediately took control under the guiding force of Lou Albano. At that time Pedro Morales held the W.W.W.F. title and Curtis and Morales battled it out numerous times all over the circuit. In fact on several occasions the King came very close to capturing the W.W.W.F. belt but his foul tactics always led, finally, to his disqualification.

Besides tearing up all of the opposition in singles matches, King Curtis also proved to be very successful with Baron Scicluna in tag-team matches. Together the King and the Baron managed to win the W.W.W.F. tag-team title from the team of Rene Goulet and Karl Gotch. These two maniacs held on to the title for several months before being upset by Chief Jay Strongbow and Sonny King in a wild brawl. After their defeat Curtis and Scicluna parted company and travelled to opposite ends of the world to continue their mayhem elsewhere. Curtis then began a world tour taking him throughout Asia, Australia, and the Orient. No one was spared as the King literally tore through all of his opponents.

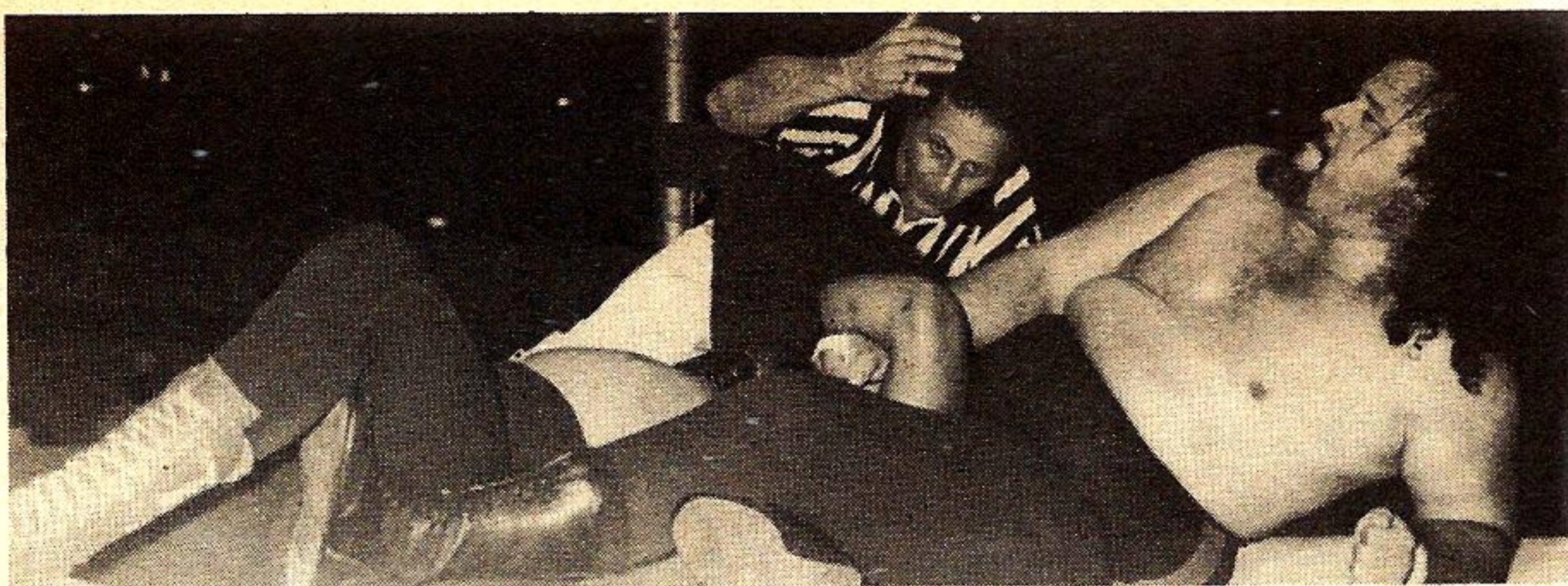
After crippling everyone overseas, the King decided to return to the States to continue his onslaught in America. Arriving on our shores, Curtis headed straight for Florida. Once in the Sunshine State,



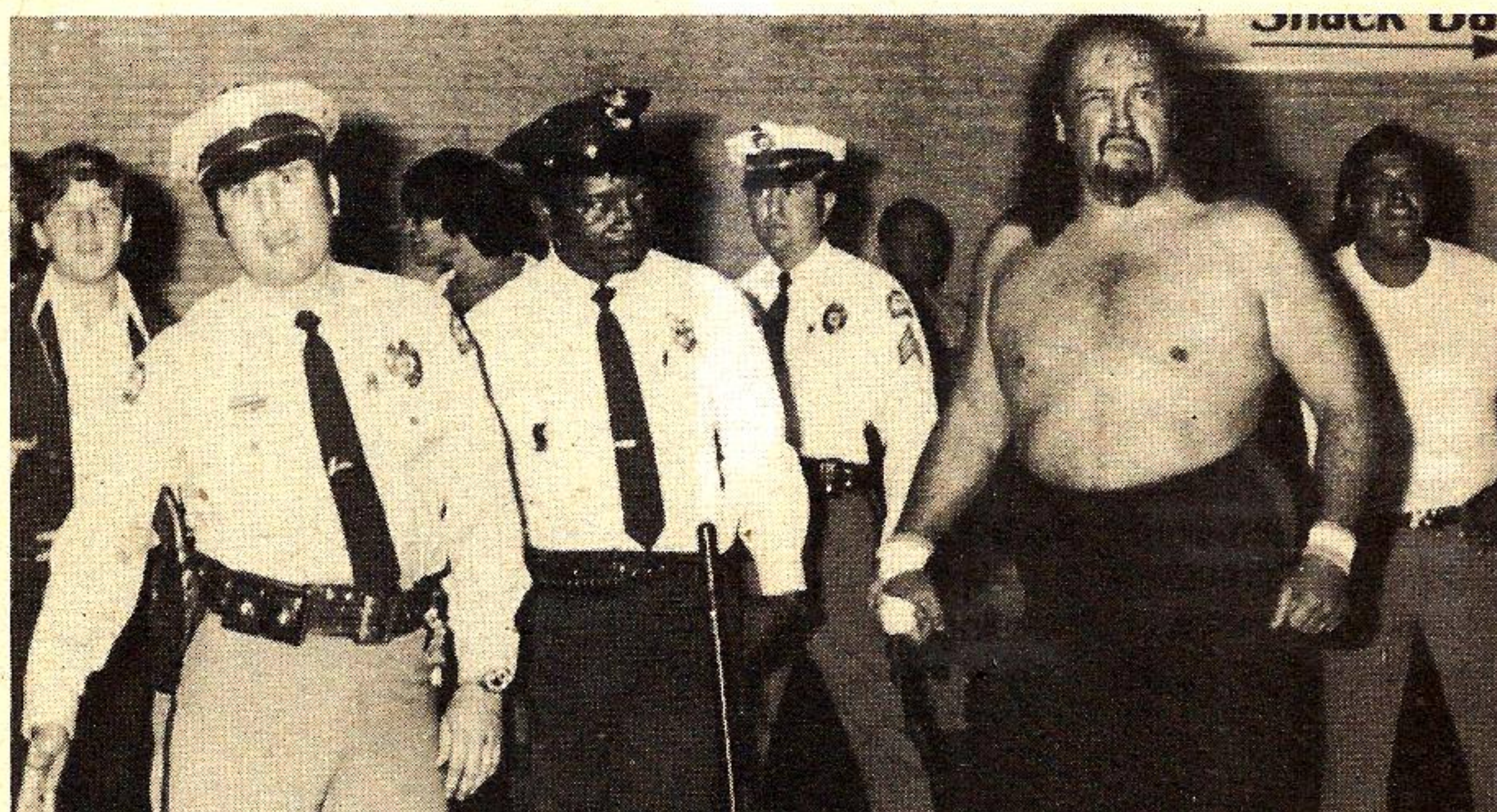
the King contacted Buddy Colt to serve as his manager and advisor. Now with the added ingredient of Colt continually by his side, the King became even more invincible than before. Big names such as Mark Lewin, Jerry Brisco, Rocky Johnson and Dusty Rhodes met defeat at the hands of Curtis and it wasn't long before Curtis succeeded in capturing the Florida Heavyweight Title in a tournament held in Tampa.

As champion, Curtis' most persistent challenger was Thunderbolt Patterson, but the popular Thunderbolt was never quite able to wrestle the title away from the King. Thunderbolt also was the wrestler instrumental in the breakup of the King Curtis-Buddy Colt partnership. It seems that Patterson caused quite a bit of friction between the two, so Curtis decided to relieve Colt of his duties. Speaking to reporters after this incident, Curtis stated, "That man was only a hindrance to me. Who needs someone cutting in on my hard earned money? I surely don't and from now on I'm gonna do things strictly on my own. I've been on top everywhere I've ever been and I intend to stay right on top here in Florida."

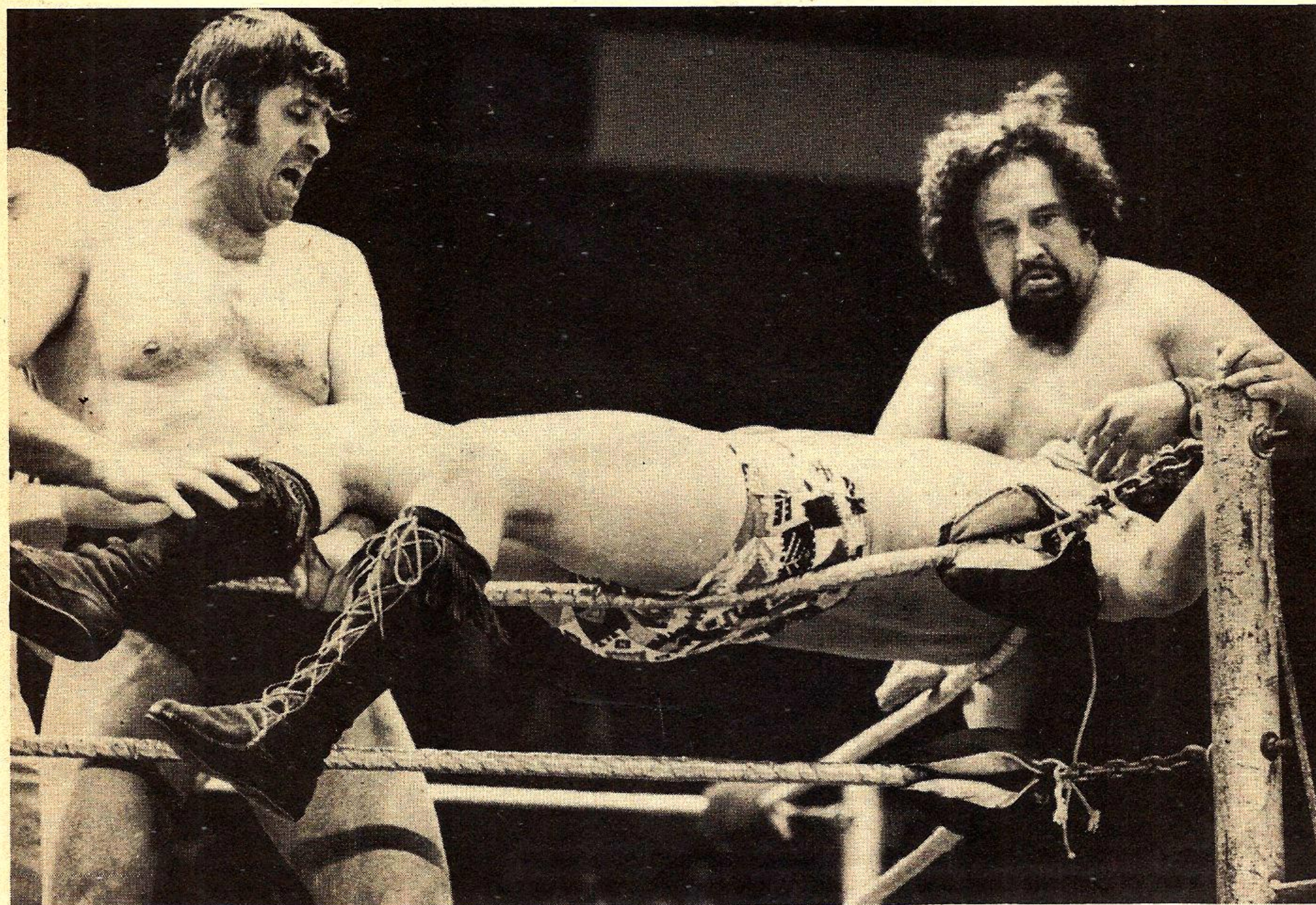
After the breakup with Colt, however, Curtis lost his Florida Heavyweight title to another persistent challenger, Rocky Johnson, in a match in Tampa. But Johnson's reign as champion was short lived as the soul man lost the belt to Frank Goodish in a televised match from



Curtis executes a well positioned leglock on Thunderbolt Patterson.

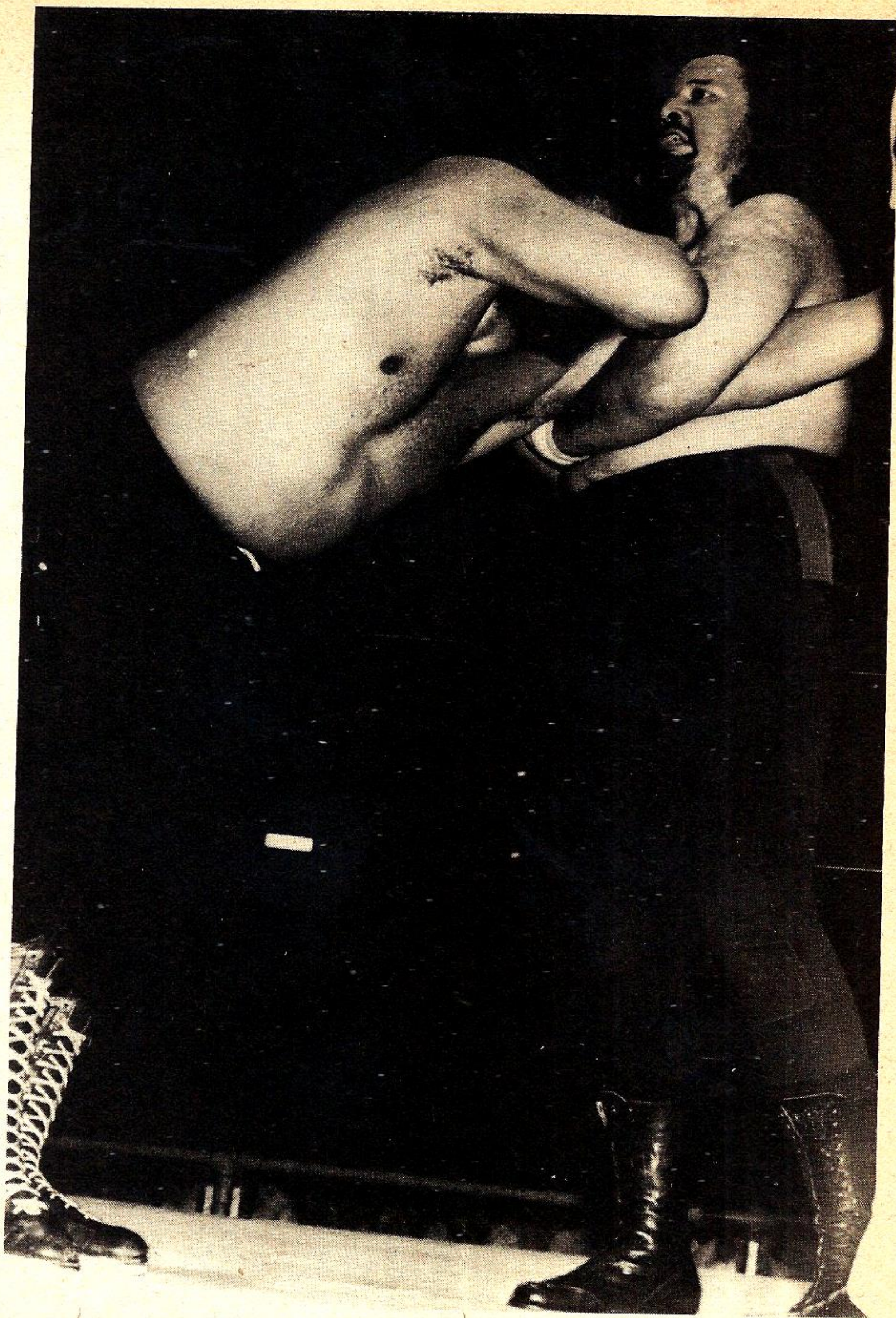


Maximum security is provided for Curtis as he is escorted to the ring by special police. Below, Curtis and his tag partner Mikel Scicluna stretch Strongbow over the ropes.

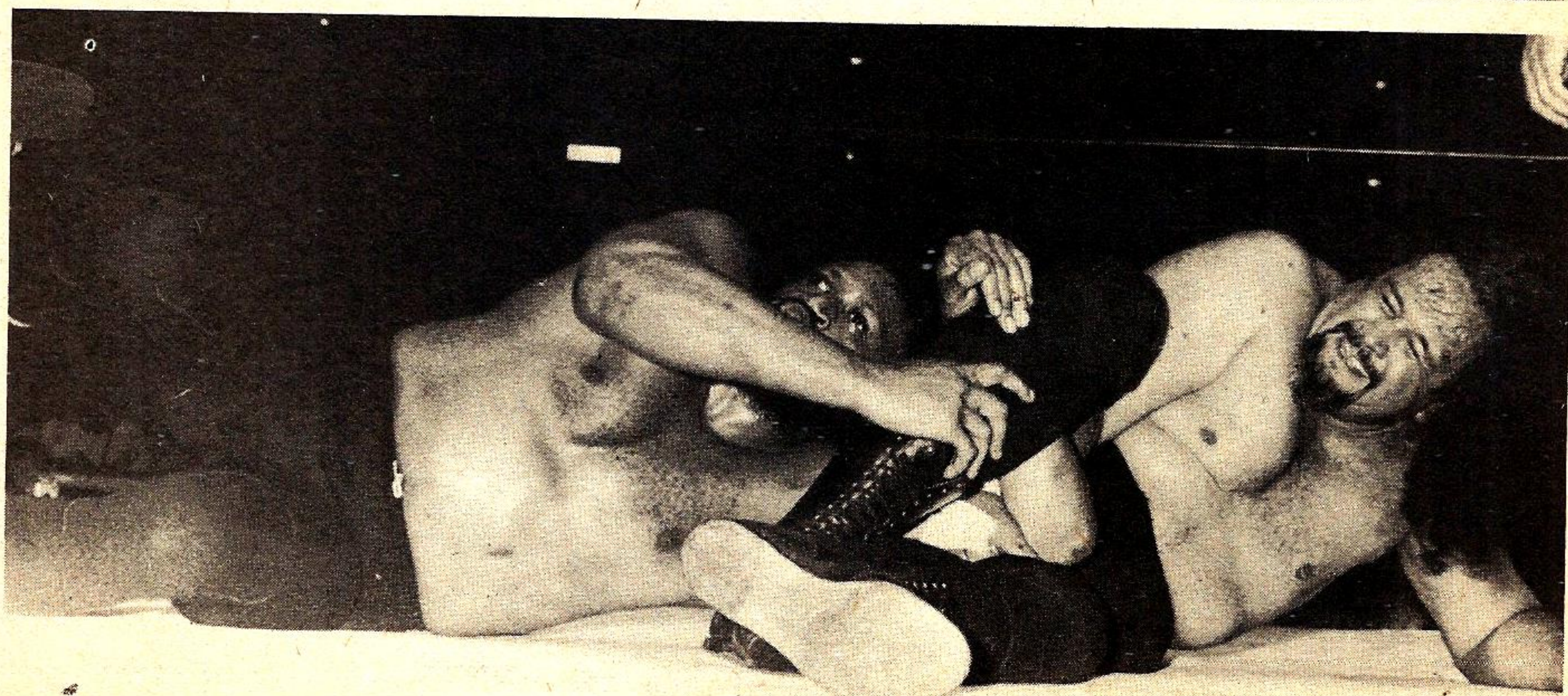


the Sport-a-Torium in Tampa. Although Johnson is no longer on top, King Curtis' top priority is getting back at Johnson for stripping him of his belt. "That man will suffer," a determined Curtis stated. "I was beat unfairly and he will get it bad for the injustices which were caused against me. My only hope is that the coconut head doesn't go into hiding before I can get back at him. That's what Mark Lewin did as soon as I arrived here in the Sunshine State and the same goes for the American nightmare, Dusty Rhodes. No matter where I go, people start to leave as soon as I arrive. It's simply because everyone is terrified of the King. Right now the poor people in Florida can expect to see a lot more of me because I'm not finished yet. My mission has only just begun. Before I move on, I will dispose of Big Bad Ugly John, Billy Robinson, Jerry Brisco and whoever else has the stupidity to step into the ring against me. The King has spoken and I assure you no one will be spared!"

The wrestlers who have been seriously injured by Curtis in the past reads like a Who's Who in Wrestling and before he's through in Florida, more top names will probably be added to his ever growing list. When Curtis looks at you with his menacing gleam and growls, "No one will be spared", you just have to believe him.



At right, Curtis puts an armlock on Thunderbolt Patterson. Below, he tries a leglock on Patterson.



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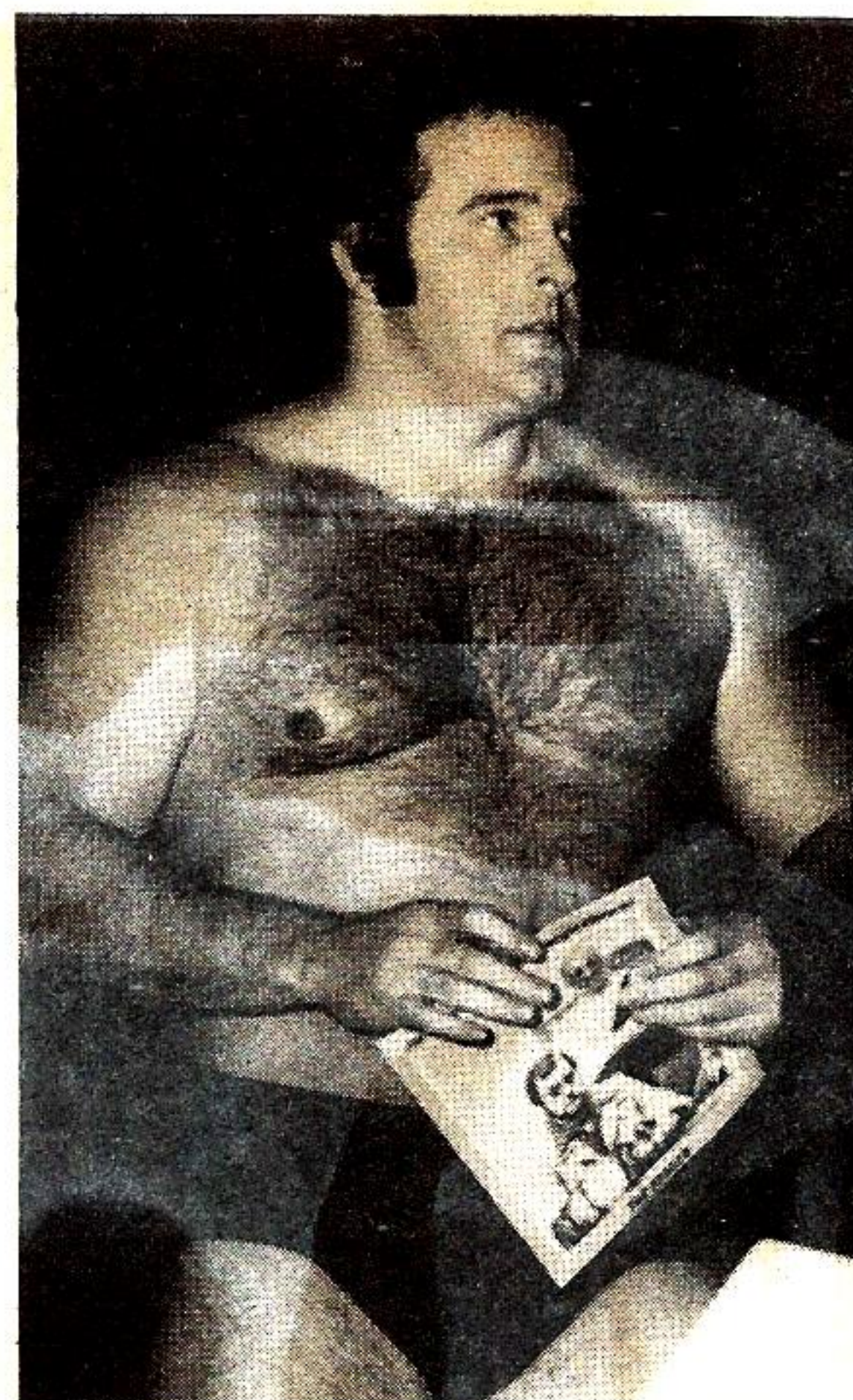
the man and I'm kind of proud that I was able to defeat him while so many others were unable to come up with wins against him."

Besides the Sheik, Lewin has also been engaged in a raging battle with Bob Roop, Harely Race and Larry Henning in the Georgia-Florida area. Lewin holds several decisive victories over these wrestlers and he hopes that with these victories it will move him a step closer to getting his long awaited chance at the World's title. "What do I have to do to get a title match?" a frustrated Lewin asked. "I've defeated all of the top contenders, yet whenever the champion comes to town I'm simply overlooked."

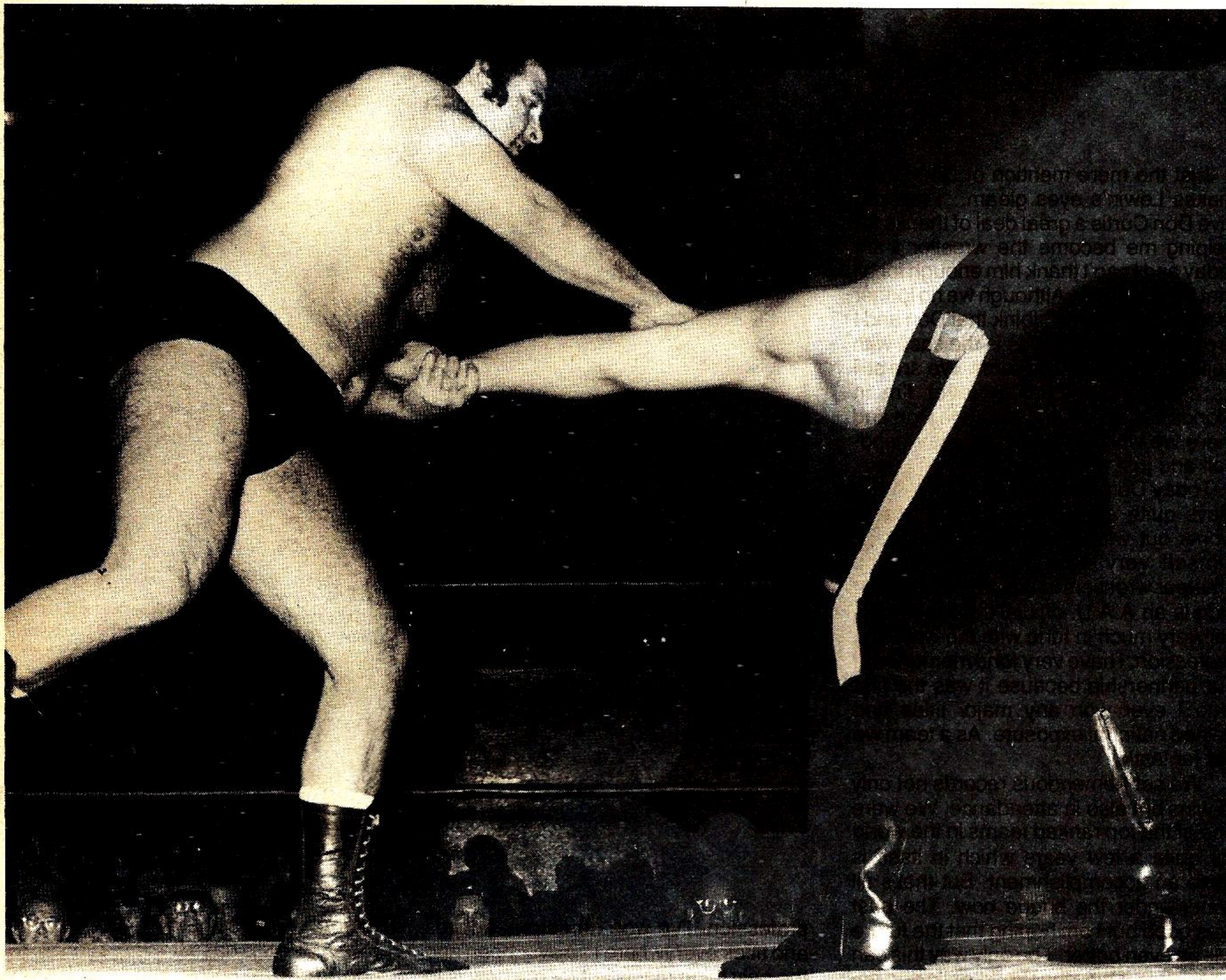
"Right now I'm making plans to return to Japan to take on another former champion, Baba the Giant. I feel that if I make a good showing there against Baba and all of the other top competition in Japan, I can't be overlooked any

longer. I feel that I was very close to getting the match with Brisco right before he lost the belt, but now I'm just back to where I started. I've been around quite sometime and I have a great deal of confidence in my ability. I honestly feel that I will be able to top off my career with the capture of the prestigious NWA World's Heavyweight title."

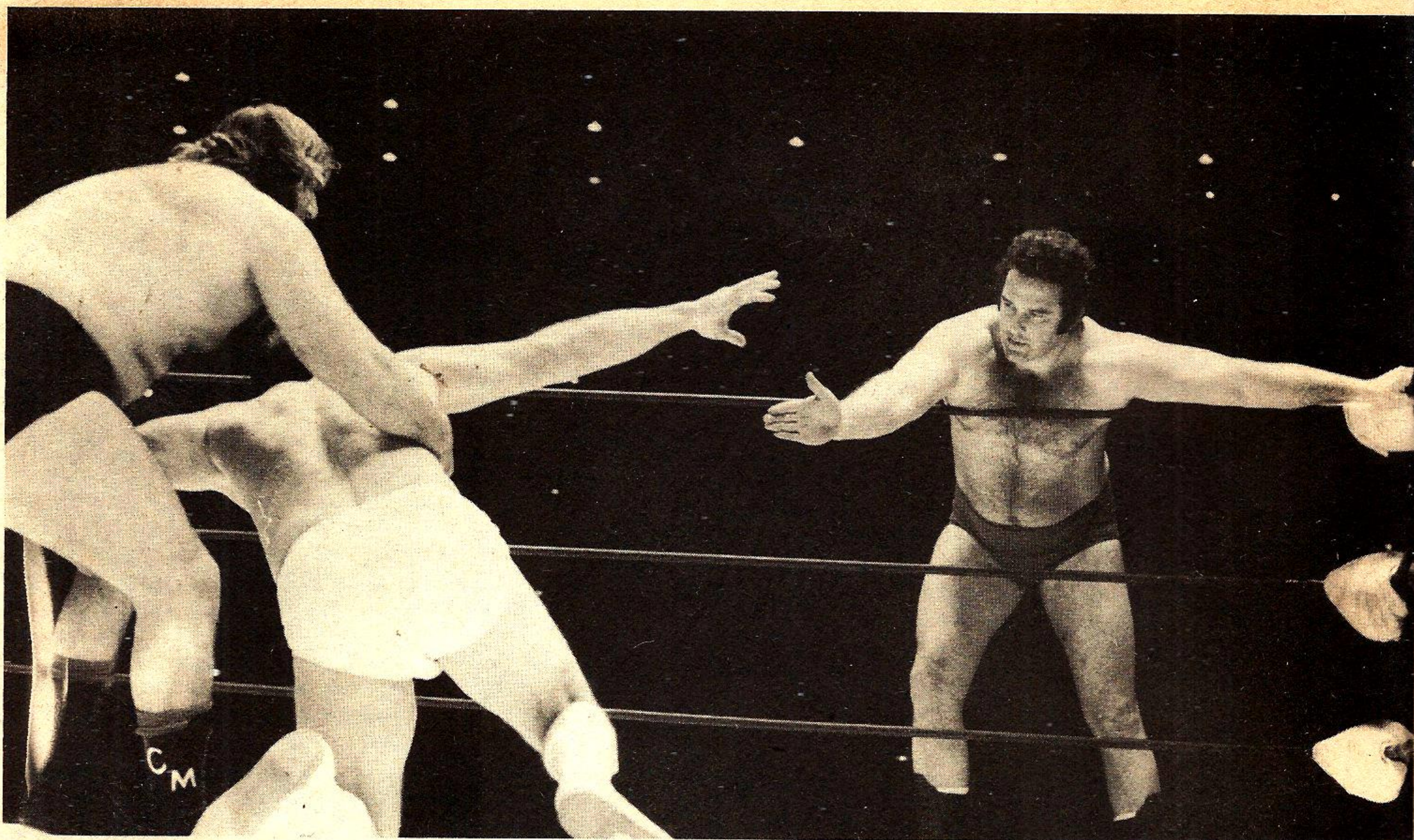
No story about Mark Lewin would be complete without mentioning his tremendous tag-team accomplishment with Don Curtis in the late 50's and early 60's, for together these two popular grapplers were simply unbeatable. As a team, Lewin and Curtis took on everyone and they were simply phenomenal. Their matches with Dr. Jerry and Eddie Graham, Handsome Johnny Barend and Magnificent Maurice, Buddy Rogers and Bob Orton, Skull Murphy and Brute Bernard had to be some of the best tag-team action ever seen anywhere with the popular duo coming out on top in a large majority of these clashes.



Those in the know feel that Lewin will capture the prestigious N.W.A. title sometime soon.



Lewin winds up to deliver a kick to Von Heller. In his illustrious career, the popular Lewin has captured virtually every title imaginable except the N.W.A. World's Heavyweight. This is the one he is shooting for now.

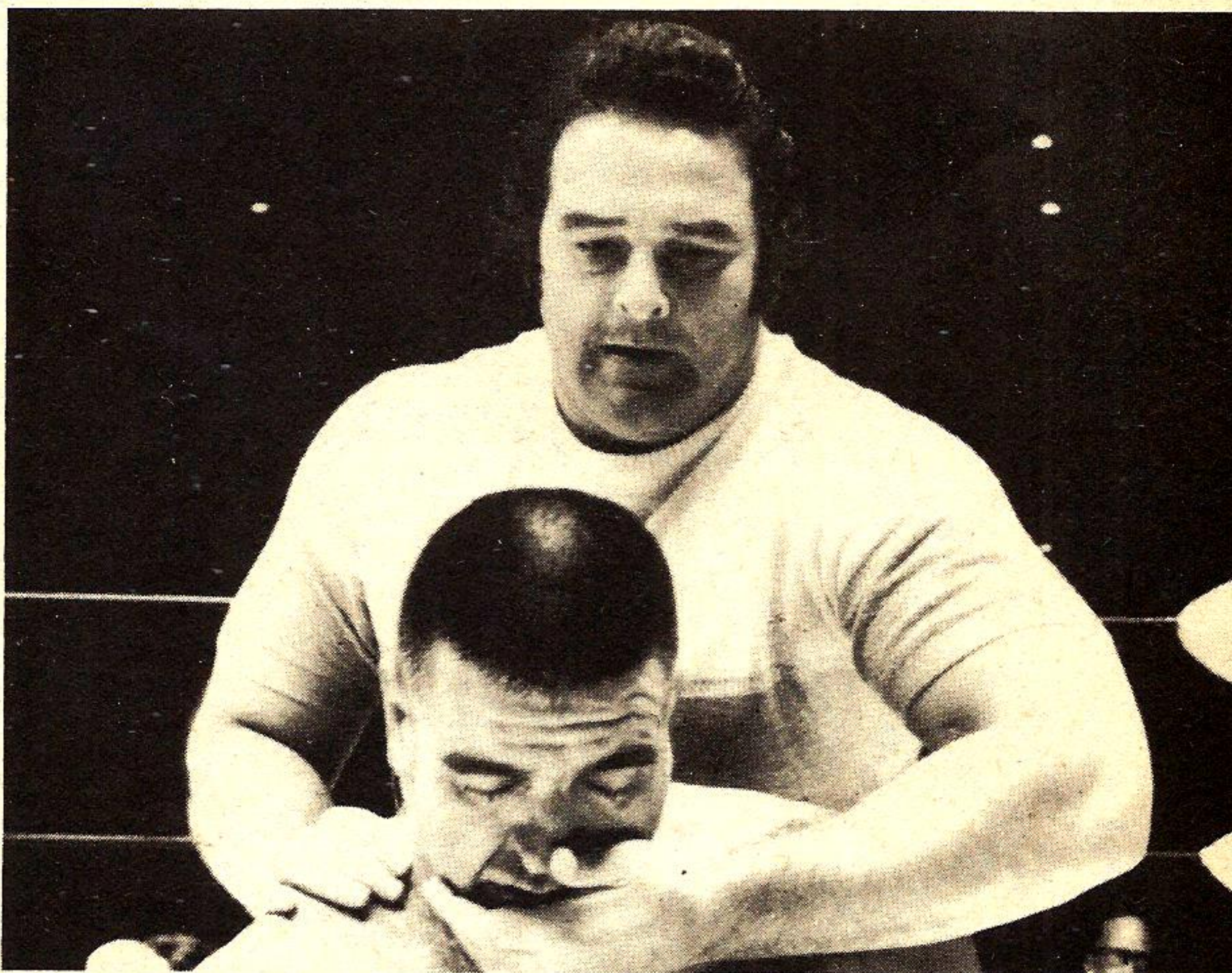


Above: Tim Woods tries to tag Lewin, his partner in their tagteam match. Below: Lewin comes to the aid of his former tagteam partner, Don Curtis. Lewin: "I have very fond memories of our partnership because it was the first time I ever won any major titles."

Just the mere mention of Don Curtis makes Lewin's eyes gleam. "I have to give Don Curtis a great deal of thanks for helping me become the wrestler I am today and I can't thank him enough for all that he did for me. Although we no longer team together, don't think that Don and I are no longer friends as is the case with quite a few of the old teams. We are still as close as ever. Whenever I'm in Florida I always manage to see Don and there we work out together, play handball and just have a good time."

"Today Don is still in top condition. He plays quite a bit of handball regularly, works out with the weights and keeps himself very busy working with the amateur wrestlers in the state of Florida. Don is an A.A.U. official there and he's still very much in tune with the wrestling profession. I have very fond memories of our partnership because it was the first time I ever won any major titles and gained national exposure. As a team we did fantastic!

"We set tremendous records not only in wins but also in attendance. We were one of the top ranked teams in the world for quite a few years which in itself is quite an accomplishment. But that's all water under the bridge now. The past was good but I am hoping that the future will be even better. The only way this can happen is if I win the World's title and believe me that's the thing I'm striving for. I've seen a lot of places that I probably never would have had I not entered the



profession. I've won numerous awards and titles everywhere I've ever been and the only thing that is left for me now is to win the World's belt. That's what keeps me going and I only hope that I can win it in 1976 for myself and all those loyal

fans that have supported me.

Mark Lewin has all the credentials to capture the NWA World's Heavyweight title and those in the know feel that this will be the year that popular Mark Lewin will win this prestigious award.



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